



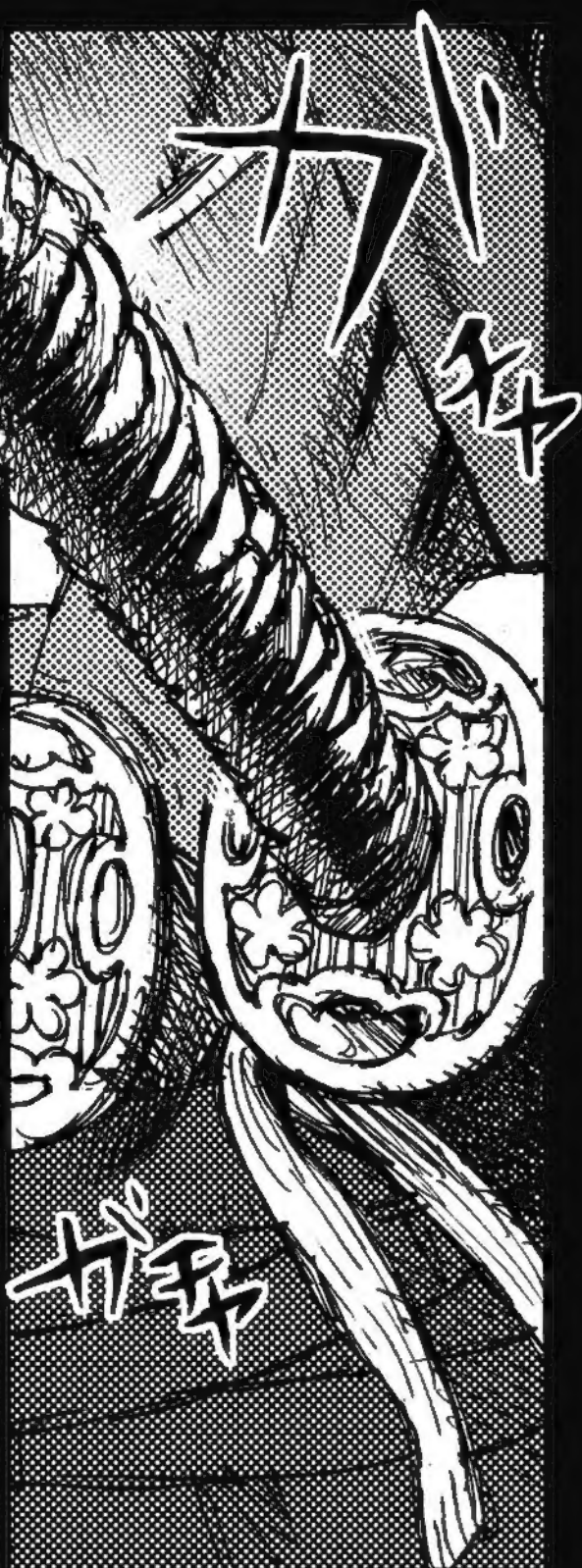
仁
方
丈
1

松本次郎
原作・永井義男

いちげき

1

松本次郎
原作・永井義男



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CHAPTER 1:
A STRUGGLE TO THE DEATH IN 90 METERS



THERE IS NO ONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE.

ROMANS 3:10

**THERE
IS A
FIRE!**



**WE'RE
TAKING AWAY
YOUR FORTUNE
IN ORDER TO
REBUILD OUR
GREAT NATION!**



**WE ARE
PATRIOTS
LOYAL TO THE
EMPEROR!**





**SOME-
ONE,
HELP!**



**SLASH
TWO OR
THREE
MORE
PEOPLE
DOWN.**

**WE
AREN'T
FLASHY
ENOUGH.**



KYAAH!



**SPINE-
LESS
COWARDS.**

**SO THEY
HAVE WAITED
FOR US TO
BE DONE
BEFORE
COMING
AFTER US,
HUH?**

**THE CITY
GUARDS
OF THE
TOKUGAWA
SHOGUNATE
ARE ON
THEIR WAY.**

**IMUDA-
DONO.**



**WE'RE
RETUR-
NING!**

**THAT'S
ENOUGH
FOR
TODAY.**



THE LAST DAYS OF THE TOKUGAWA SHOGUNATE. THE ORDER IN EDO WAS VANISHING, AND THE CITY WAS ENGULFED IN ANXIETY. SAIGOU TAKAMORI OF THE SATSUMA DOMAIN, WHO PLANNED TO STIR UNREST, ORDERED HIS LOYAL WARRIORS TO TEAM UP WITH THE CONSPIRATORS AND COMMIT ACTS OF TERROR SUCH AS ARSON, ROBBERIES AND RANDOM KILLINGS. THE CITIZENS OF EDO WHO WERE AFFECTED BY THESE "ACTS OF TERROR" WERE TREMBLING IN FEAR.



YOU
LOOK
PALE.

WHAT'S
THE
MATTER,
MAENO-
SUKE?



WE
WENT
ALL OUT
TONIGHT.

NOTHING
BEATS
THE SAKE
AFTER
A HARD
DAY'S
WORK.



I DIDN'T
EXPECT IT
TO BE THIS
BRUTAL.

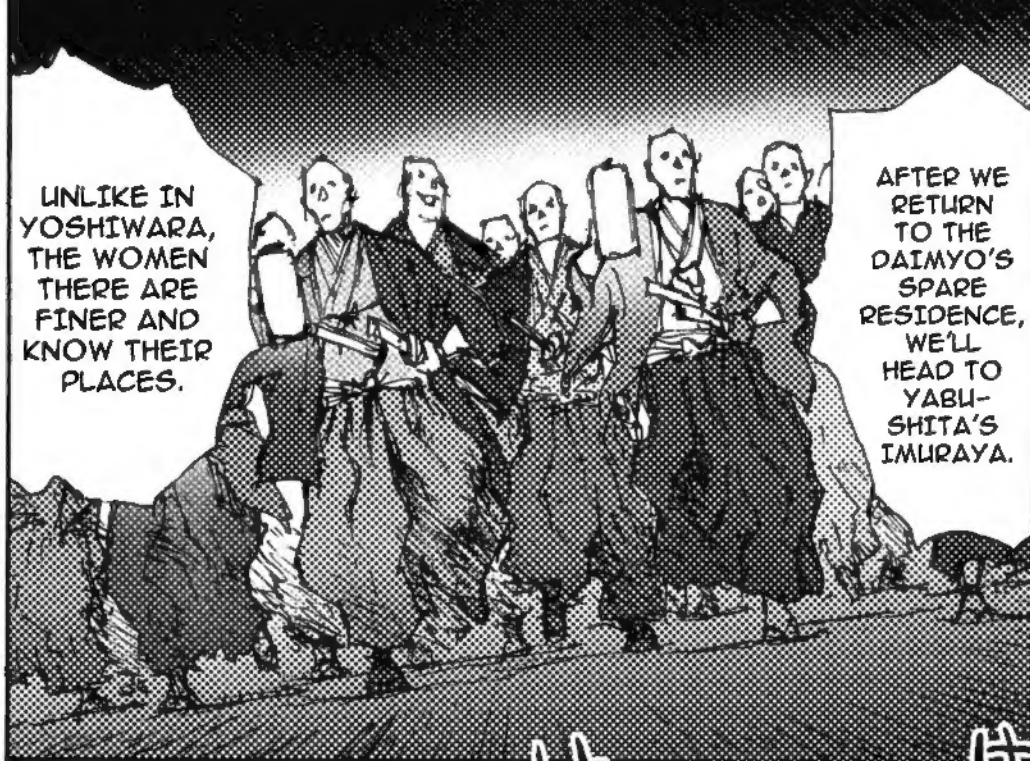


TONIGHT
WAS MY
FIRST
TIME
PARTICI-
PATING
IN THIS.

SIR...



HA
HA
HA!



UNLIKE IN YOSHIWARA, THE WOMEN THERE ARE FINER AND KNOW THEIR PLACES.

AFTER WE RETURN TO THE DAIMYO'S SPARE RESIDENCE, WE'LL HEAD TO YABU-SHITA'S IMURAYA.



YOU'LL GET USED TO IT IN NO TIME, MAENO-SUKE.



THAT'S NOT THE ISSUE HERE...



YOU'LL FEEL RELIEVED AFTER SHAGGING THOSE WOMEN.



HM?



THERE CAN'T BE ANY NOBLE INTENTIONS BEHIND THESE ACTS OF BRUTALITY...



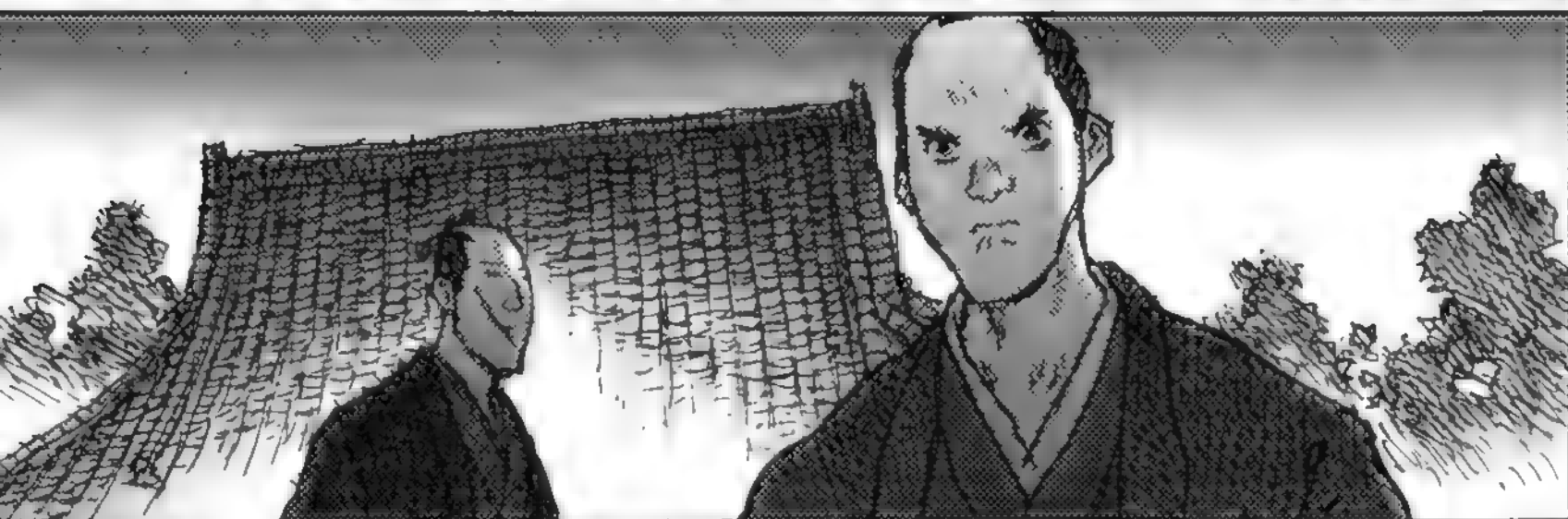
ROBBERIES AND ARSONS... HOW ARE THESE RELATED TO OUR CAUSE?

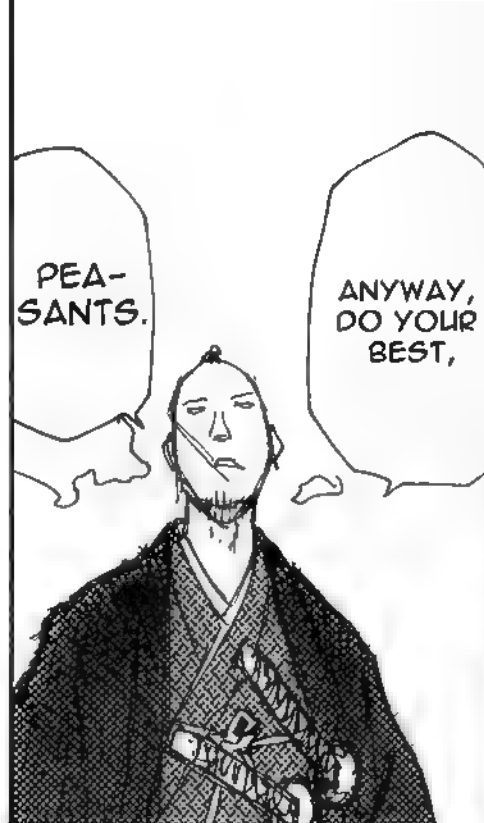
IS THIS WHAT A SAMURAI WHO PURGES BARBARIANS FROM THIS LAND DOES?



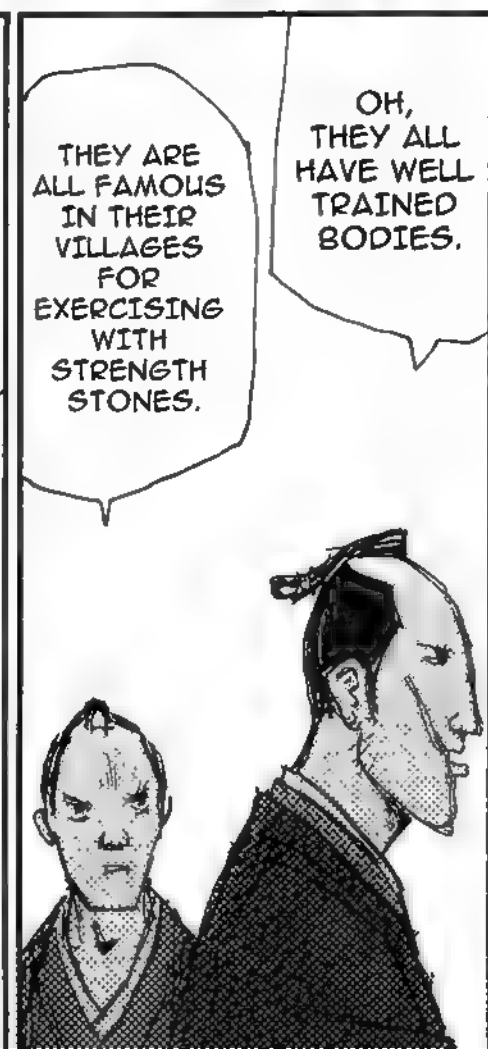
TEN
DAYS
AGO.







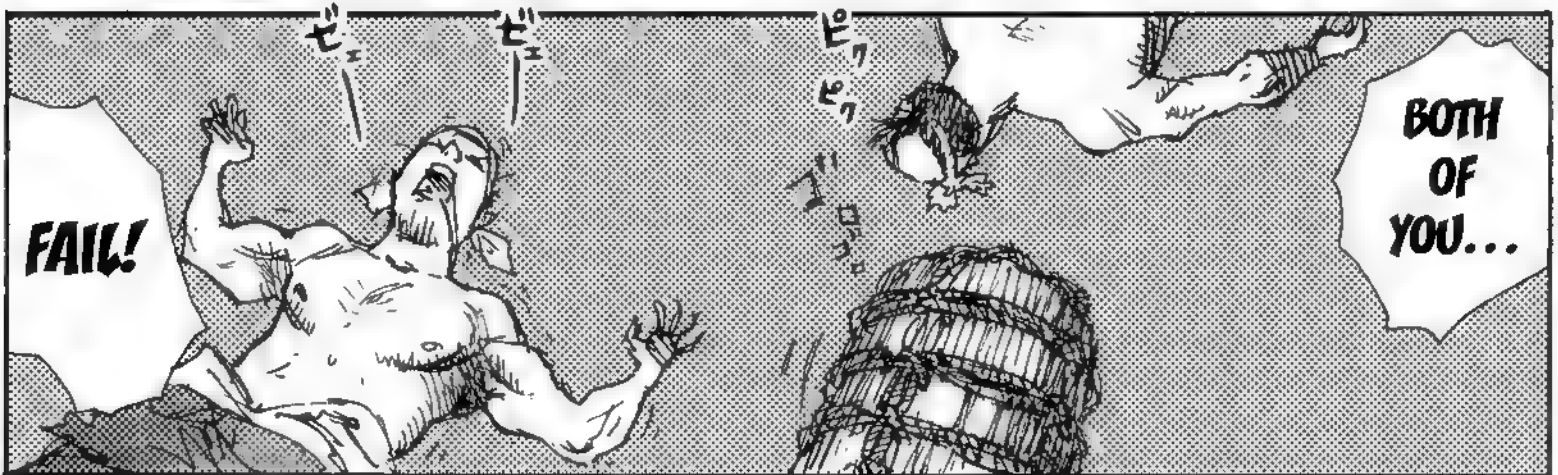
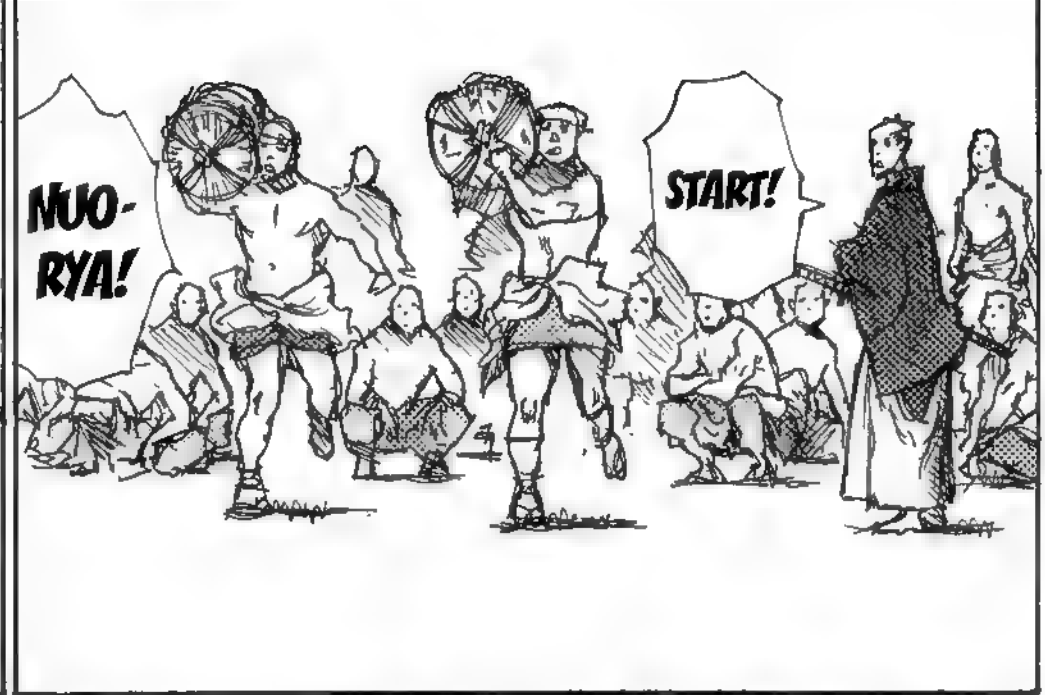




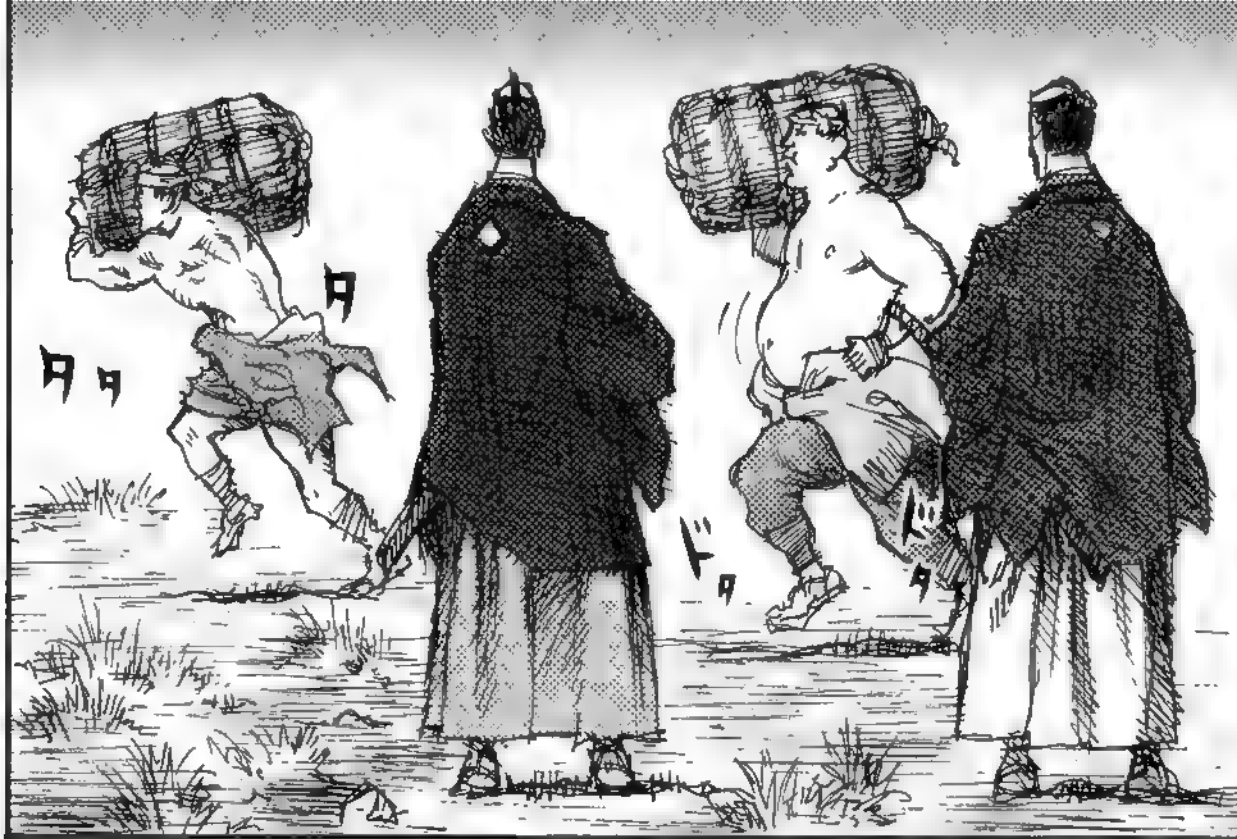












START!



DON'T
START
RUNNING
YET.

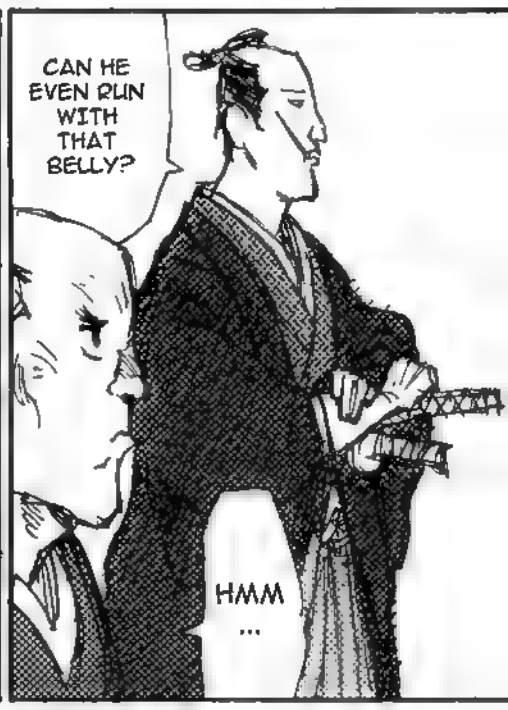
THAT'S
THE WAY,
YONE-
KICHI.



**IF YOU'RE
HUNGRY,
JUST EAT
THE RICE
FROM THAT
BAG!**

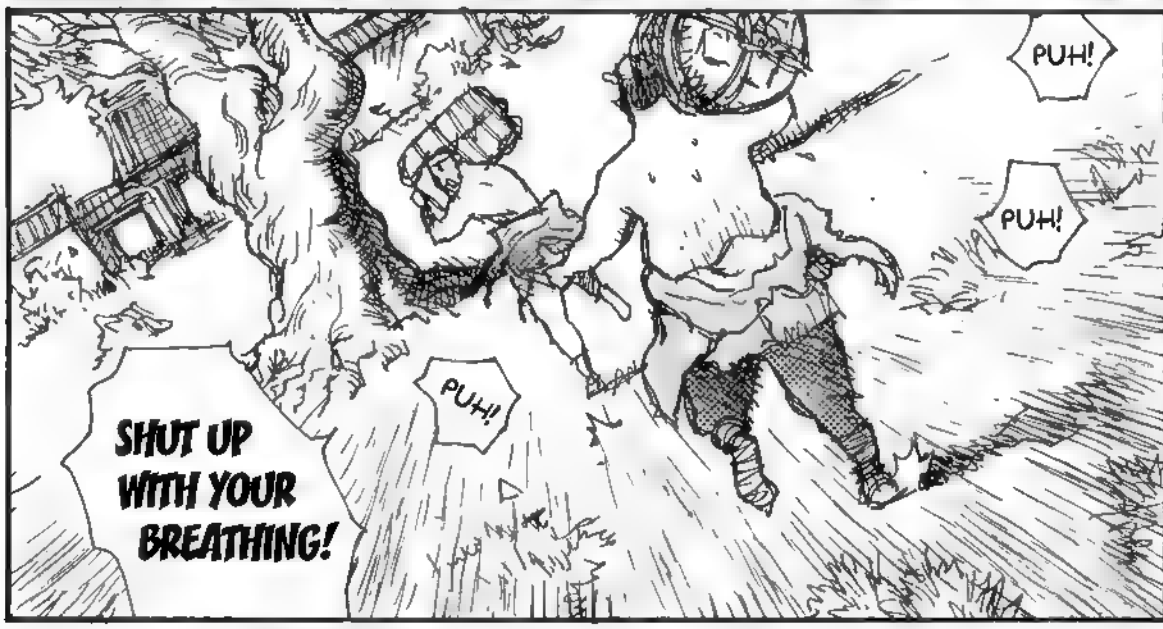
HAHAHA

**PICK UP
THE PACE,
FATSO!**



CAN HE
EVEN RUN
WITH
THAT
BELLY?

HMM
...



**SHUT UP
WITH YOUR
BREATHING!**

PUH!

PUH!

PUH!



I'LL WIN
THIS
WITH A
HUGE
LEAD.

I CAN'T
LOOK
TOO
LAME.



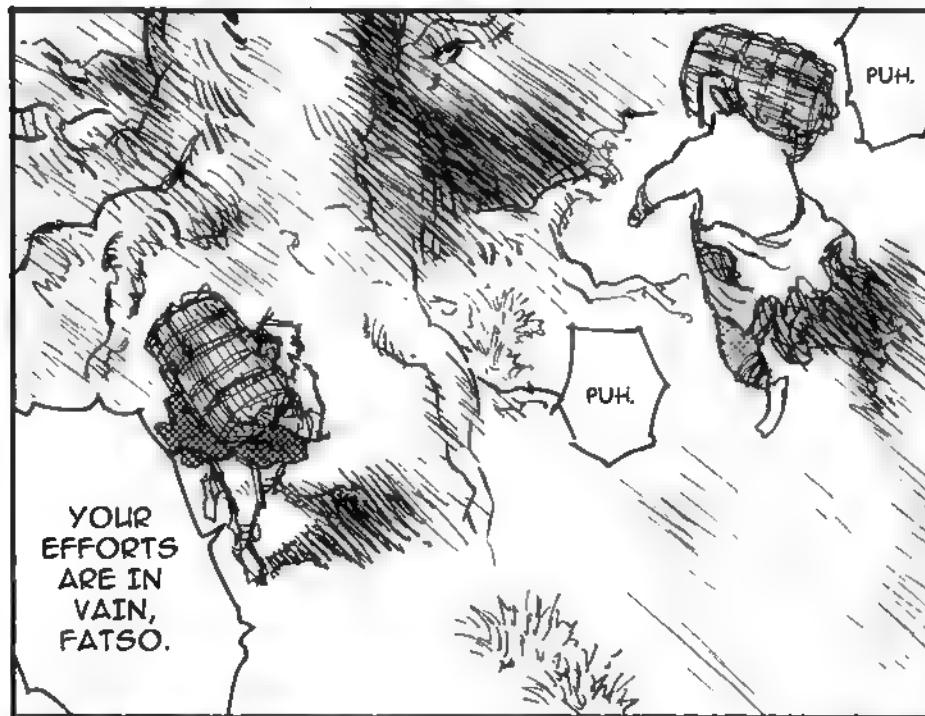
**YOU'LL DECIDE
THE MATCH HALFWAY!
DON'T RUN OUT
OF BREATH!**

...



HE'S
FINALLY
GOING TO
LEAVE THE
FATSO
BEHIND,
HUH?

LOOK,
MIKISUKE
IS
RUNNING
FASTER.



PUH.

PUH.

YOUR
EFFORTS
ARE IN
VAIN,
FATSO.



AT THIS
RATE,
HE'LL BE
COMPLETELY
EXHAUSTED.

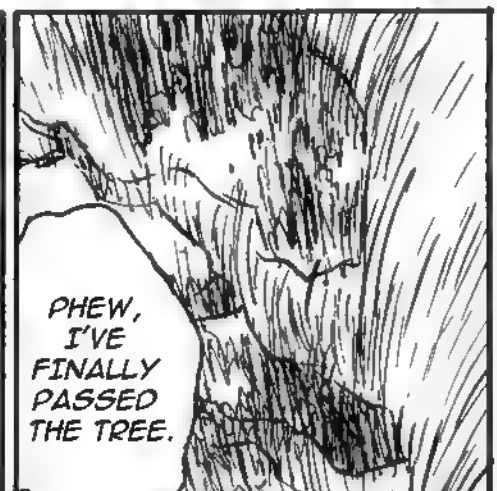
IT'S A
RELIEF THAT
MIKISUKE
IS DUMB.
HE'LL BE
WORN OUT
EVEN MORE
NOW.



CRAP,
IT'S
HEAVY.

HAH.

HAH.



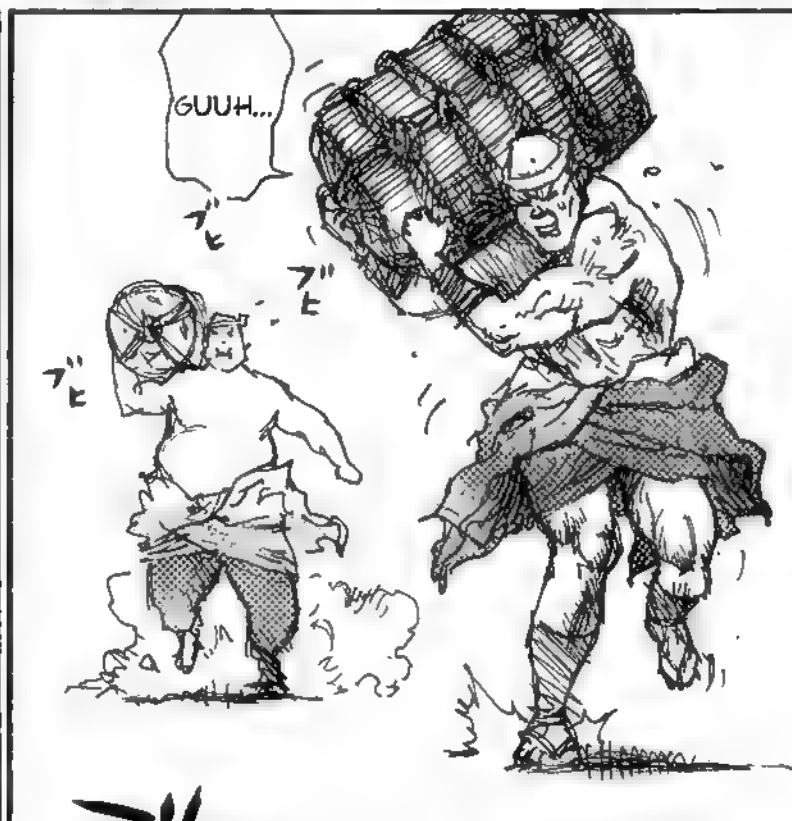
PHEW,
I'VE
FINALLY
PASSED
THE TREE.



EITHER
WAY, WITH
THAT
MUCH GAP,
WE KNOW
WHO WILL
WIN THIS...

YOU
WOULDN'T
KNOW HOW
HARD THIS
IS UNTIL
YOU RUN
YOURSELF.

EVEN
MIKISUKE
IS GETTING
SLOWER
NOW.





WHA-
WHAT
HAPPENED?

ARE
YOU
KIDDING
ME?!
THE FATSO
WON!



NO.

HMM...
THAT FATSO
ACTUALLY
THOUGHT THIS
THROUGH
DESPITE
BEING
A PEASANT.



IT'S
JUST
AS
BRO
SAID.

IF I HAD
RAN
WITH FULL
POWER
FROM THE
START,
I'D BE
DEAD.



NEXT!

ALRIGHT,
YOU
PASS.



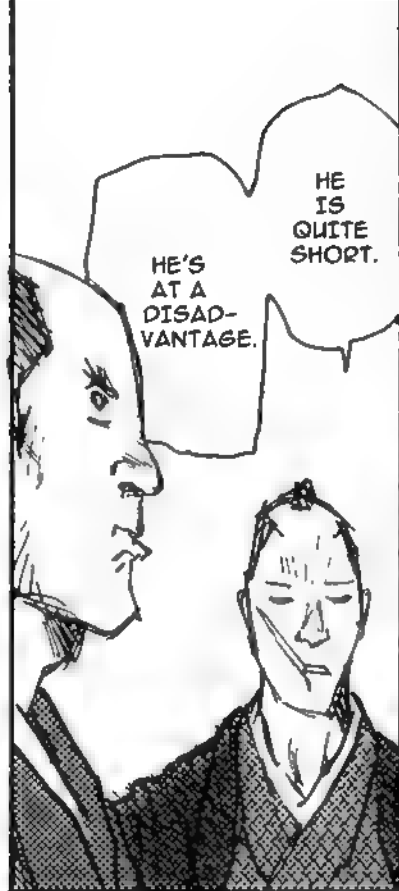
SURE!

DON'T
LOSE,
BRO
USHI-
GOROU!



THAT
GUY GAVE
HIM THE
ADVICE.

HUH?



HE'S AT A DISADVANTAGE.

HE IS QUITE SHORT.



AFTER A FATSO, WE HAVE A MIDGET THIS TIME?

HE PROBABLY ISN'T THAT FAST, CONSIDERING HOW TALL HE IS.

WHAT?

THE VILLAGE GRAND-CHAMPION GYUJIZOU, HUHP?



AYE.

GET READY.



START!



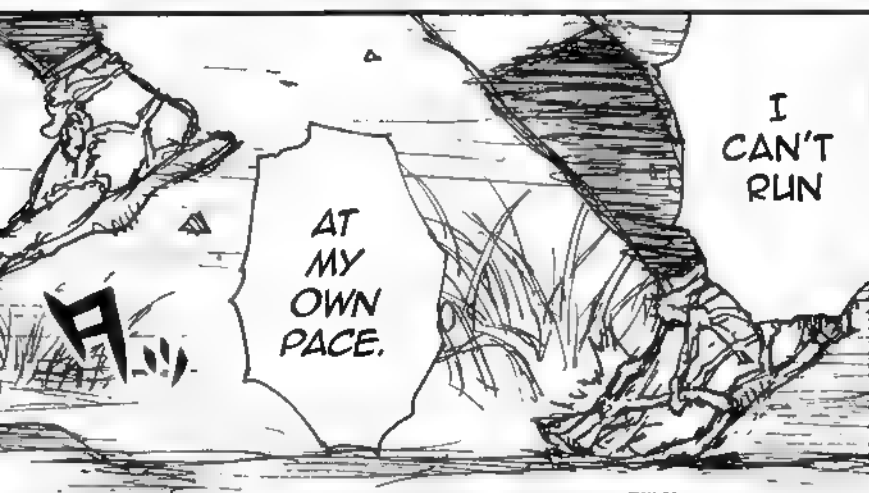
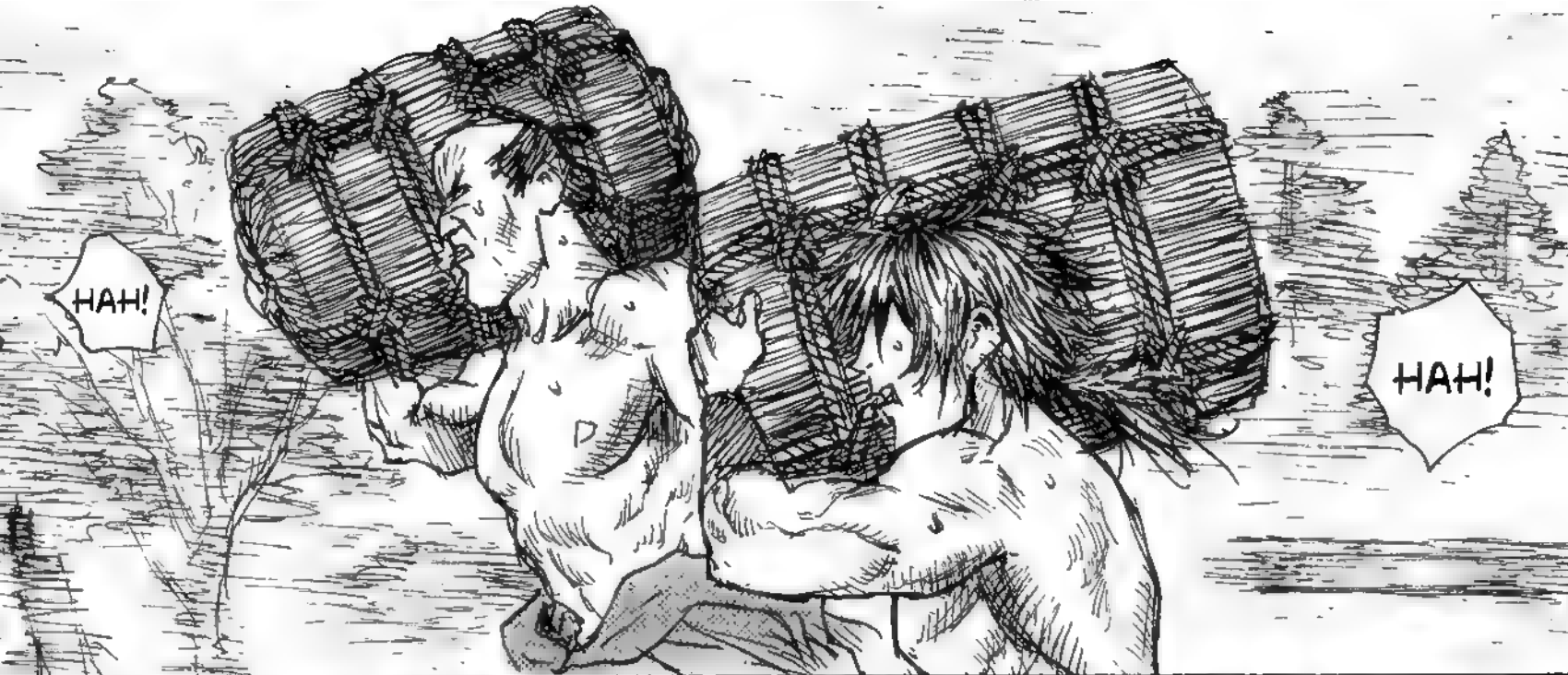
BRO!

HANG IN THERE!

GO!

I'VE FAITH IN MY FEET, BUT I SHOULD JUST LET HIM PASS ME.







THAT
GUY...



WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING, BRO,
CATCH UP!

THE
MIDGET
IS QUITE
FAST,
BUT...

THAT'S
THE
DIFFE-
RENCE
IN
STRENGTH
BETWEEN
THEM.



GOOD,
HE'S ONE
OF THE
IDIOTS
THAT USE
RAW
STRENGTH.



WHAT
HAPPENED?!

HAH!

HMPH.

SHIT...
MY FEET
AREN'T JUST
GETTING
WEAK, THEY
ARE SLOWER
AS WELL.



HAH!



HAH!

HAH!

I'LL GO
ALL OUT
NOW!

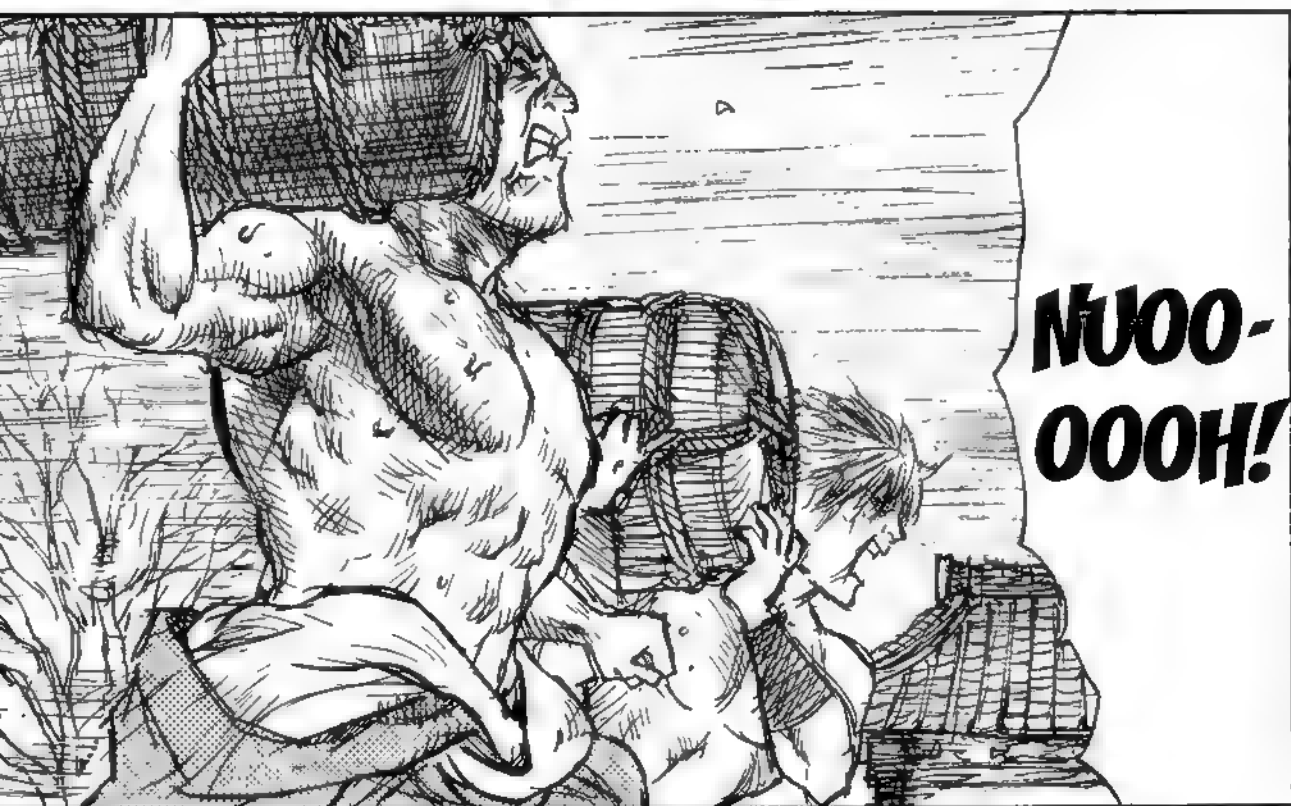
I AIN'T
LETTING
HIM
WIN.

THERE
IS TWO
GOLD
ON THE
LINE.



I DON'T
KNOW
IF MY
BODY WILL
WITHSTAND
THAT.

BUT...



NUOO-
OOOH!



THE
MIDGET
IS CLOSING
IN.

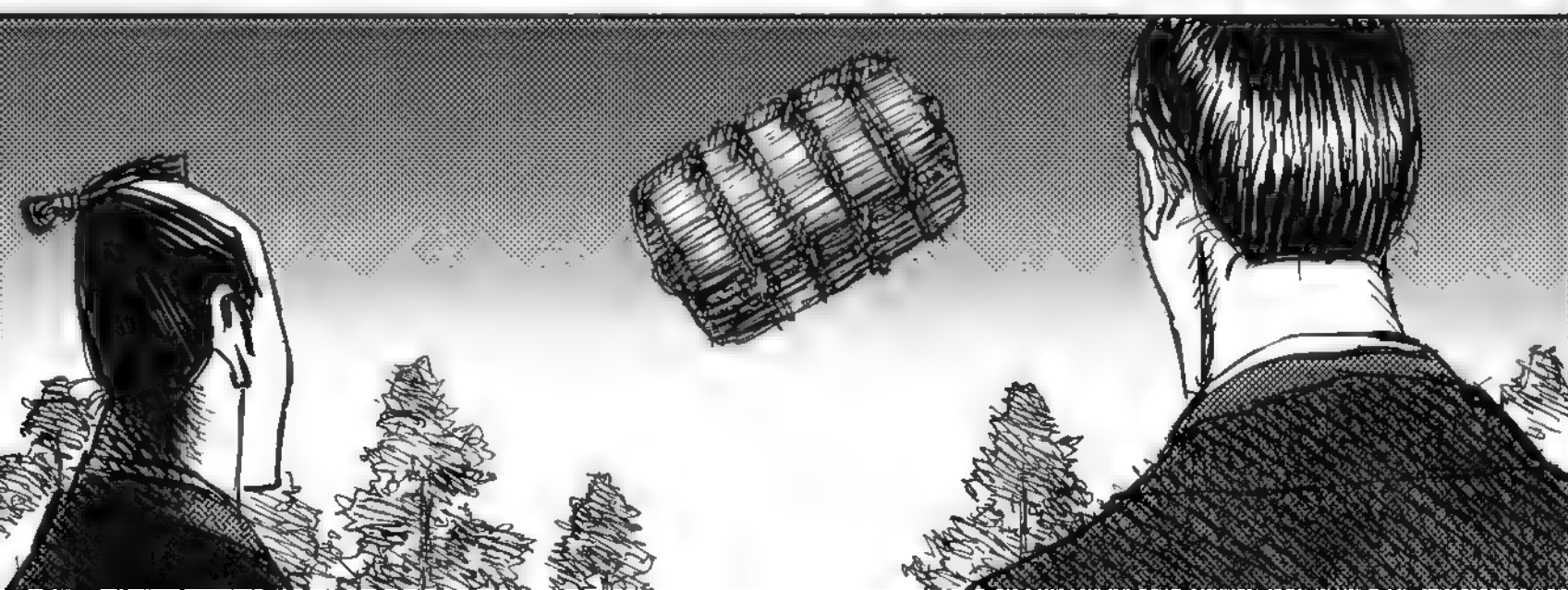
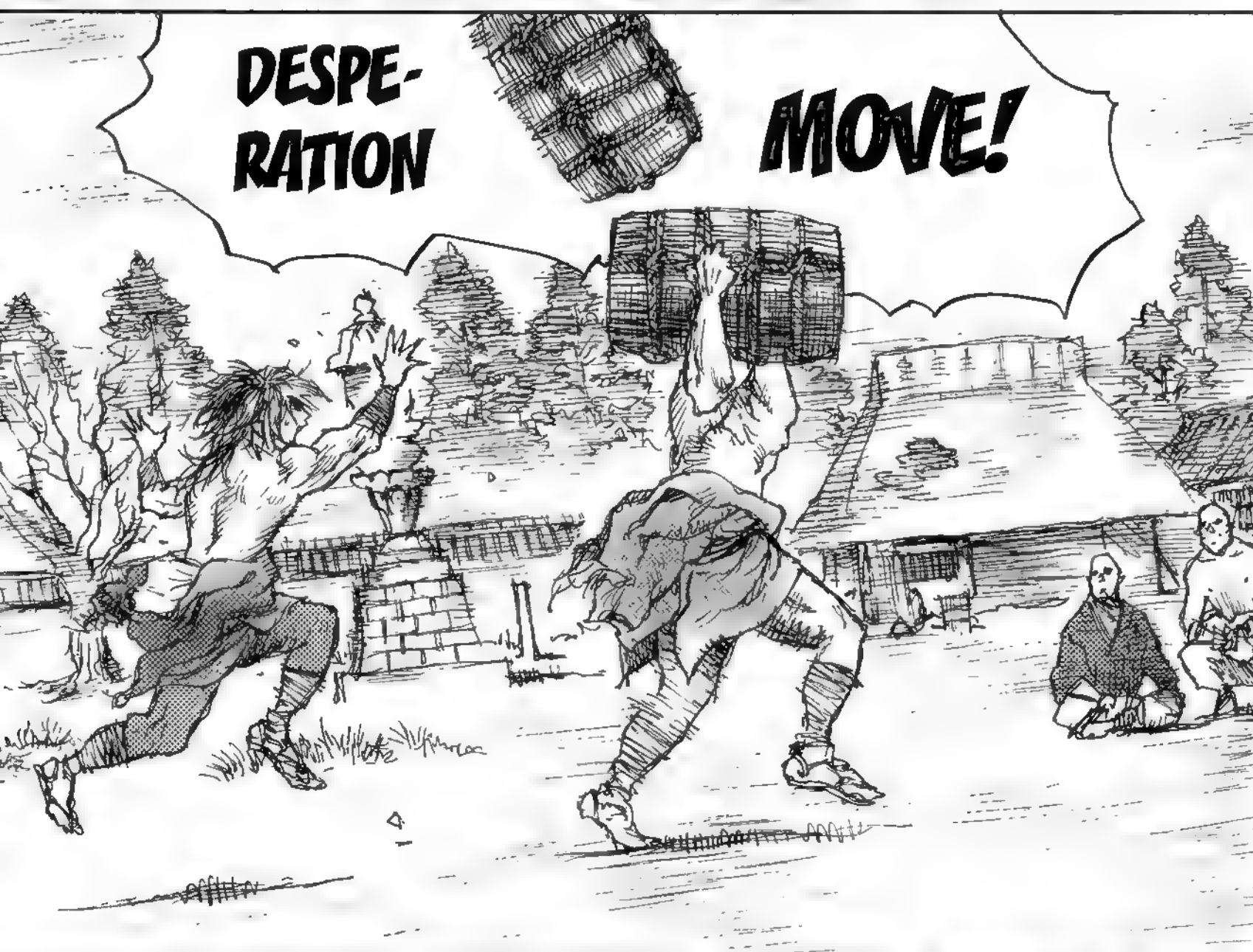
CAN
HE PASS
HIM
THOUGH?

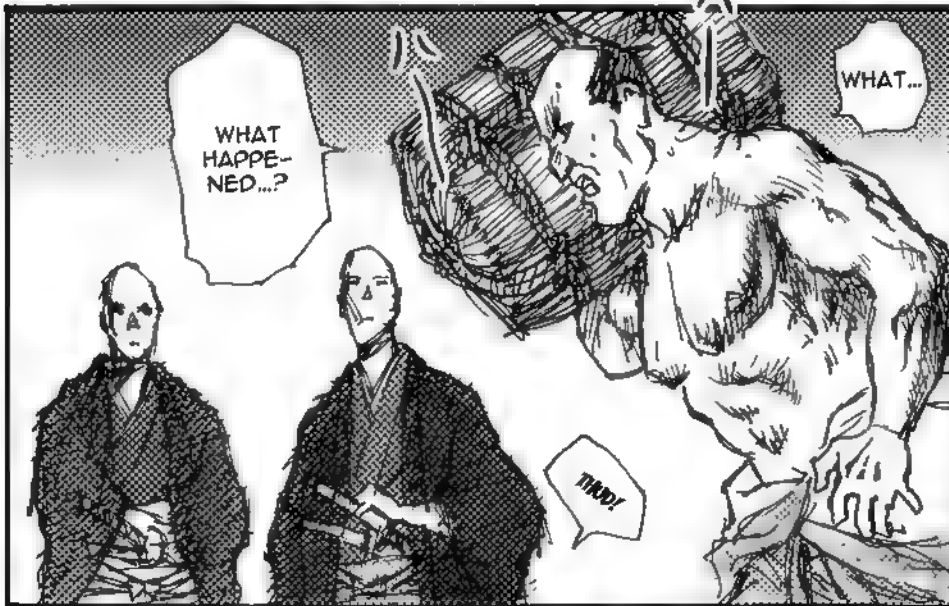


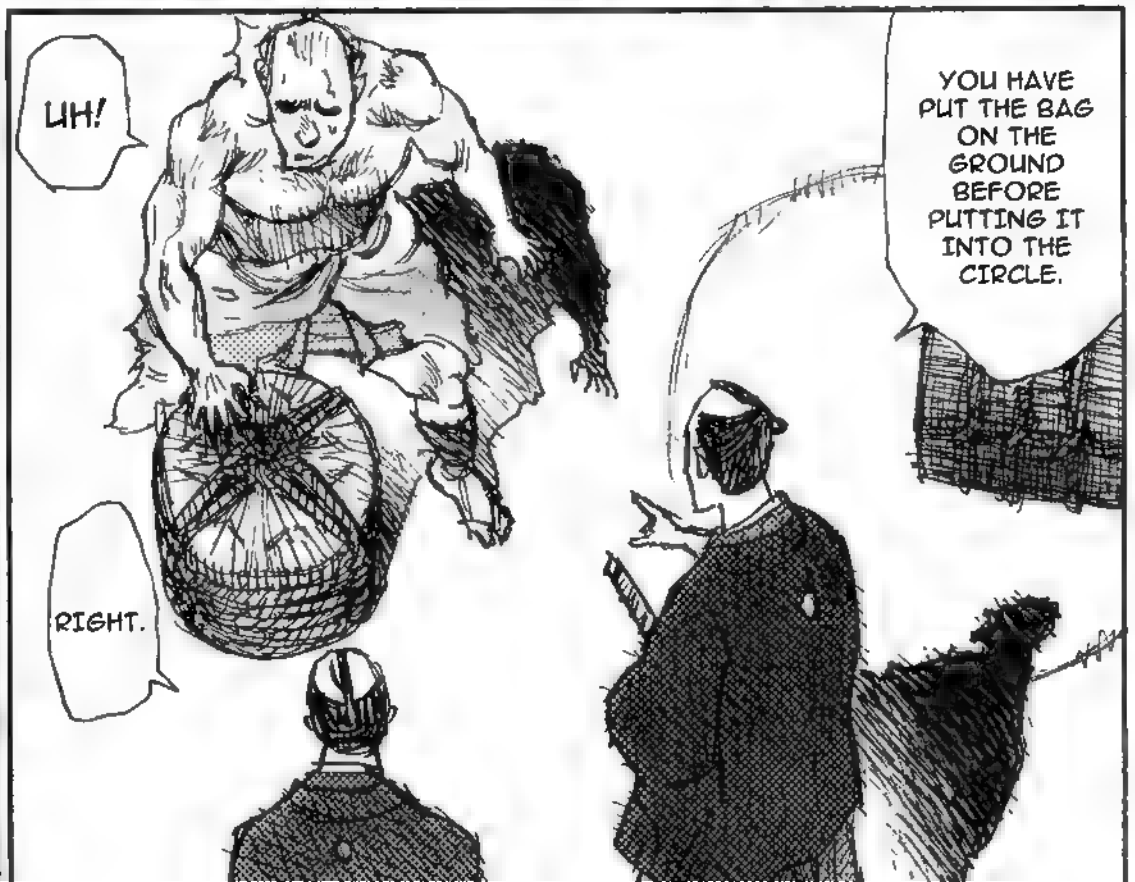
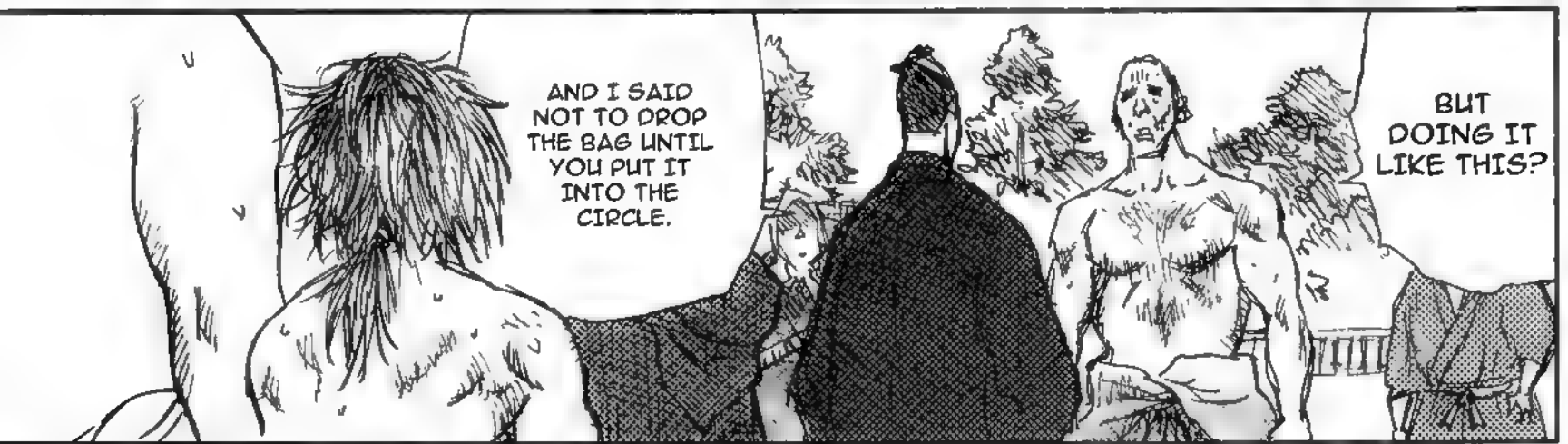
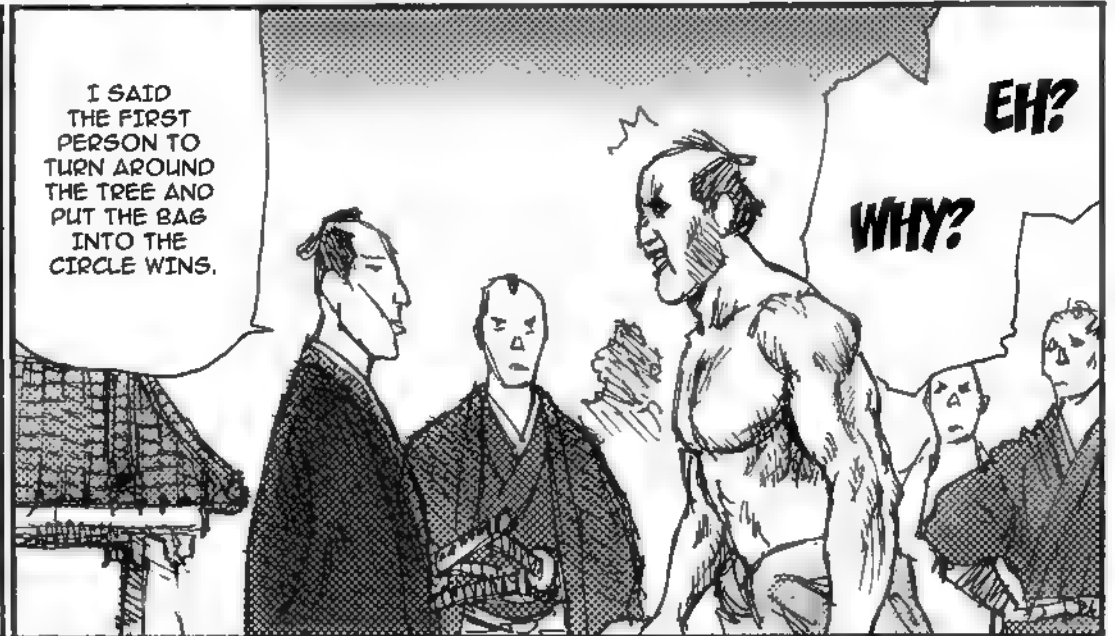
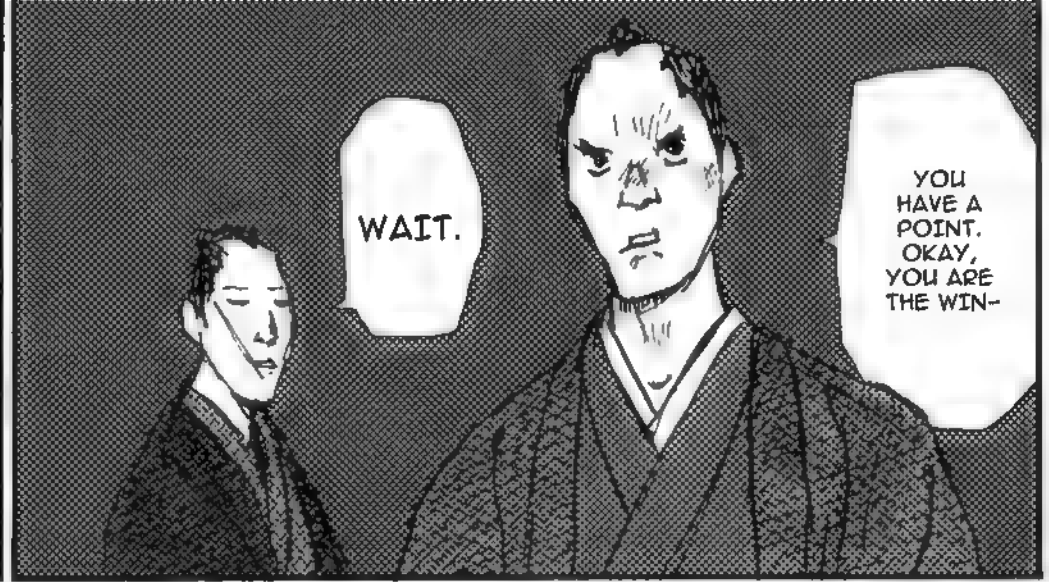
THAT
MIDGET'S
AMAZING!

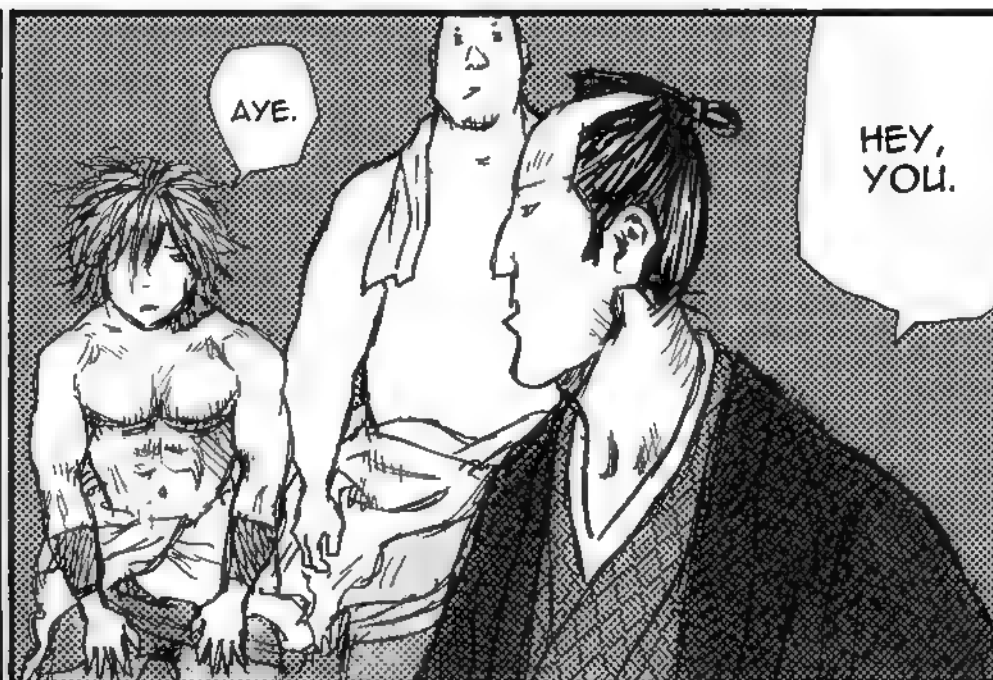
THEY
ARE
EVEN!

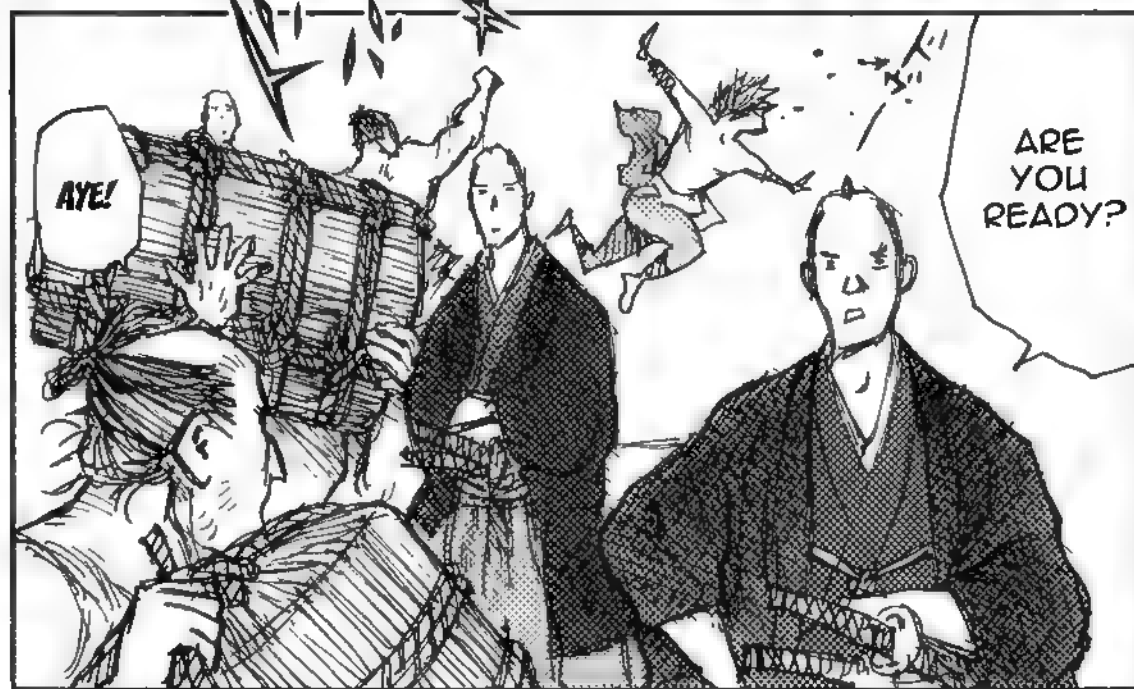
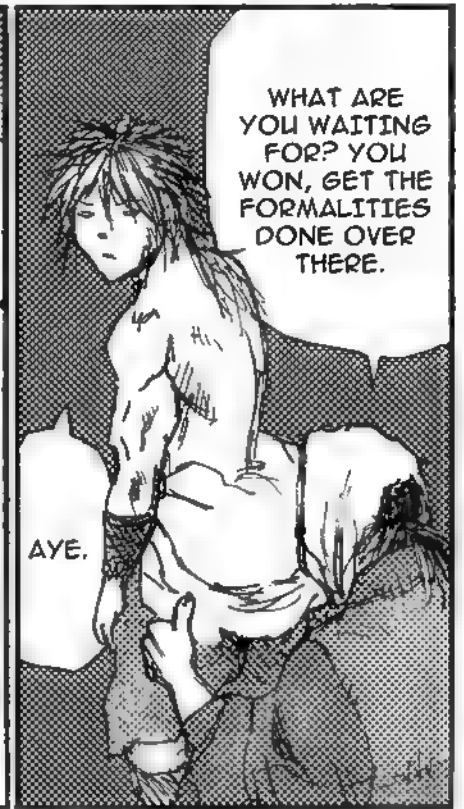














OH, DEAR...

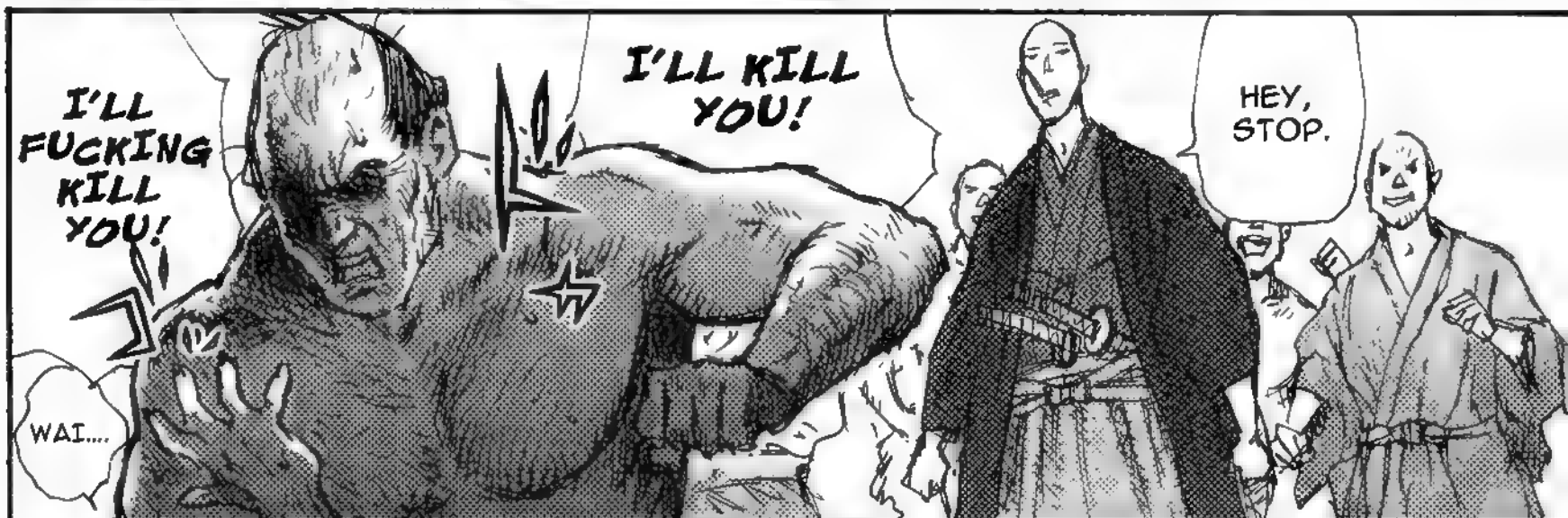
WHOA, THEY'RE FIGHTING!



BRO, HIT HIM BACK!

YOU CHEATING BASTARD!

BECAUSE OF YOU...

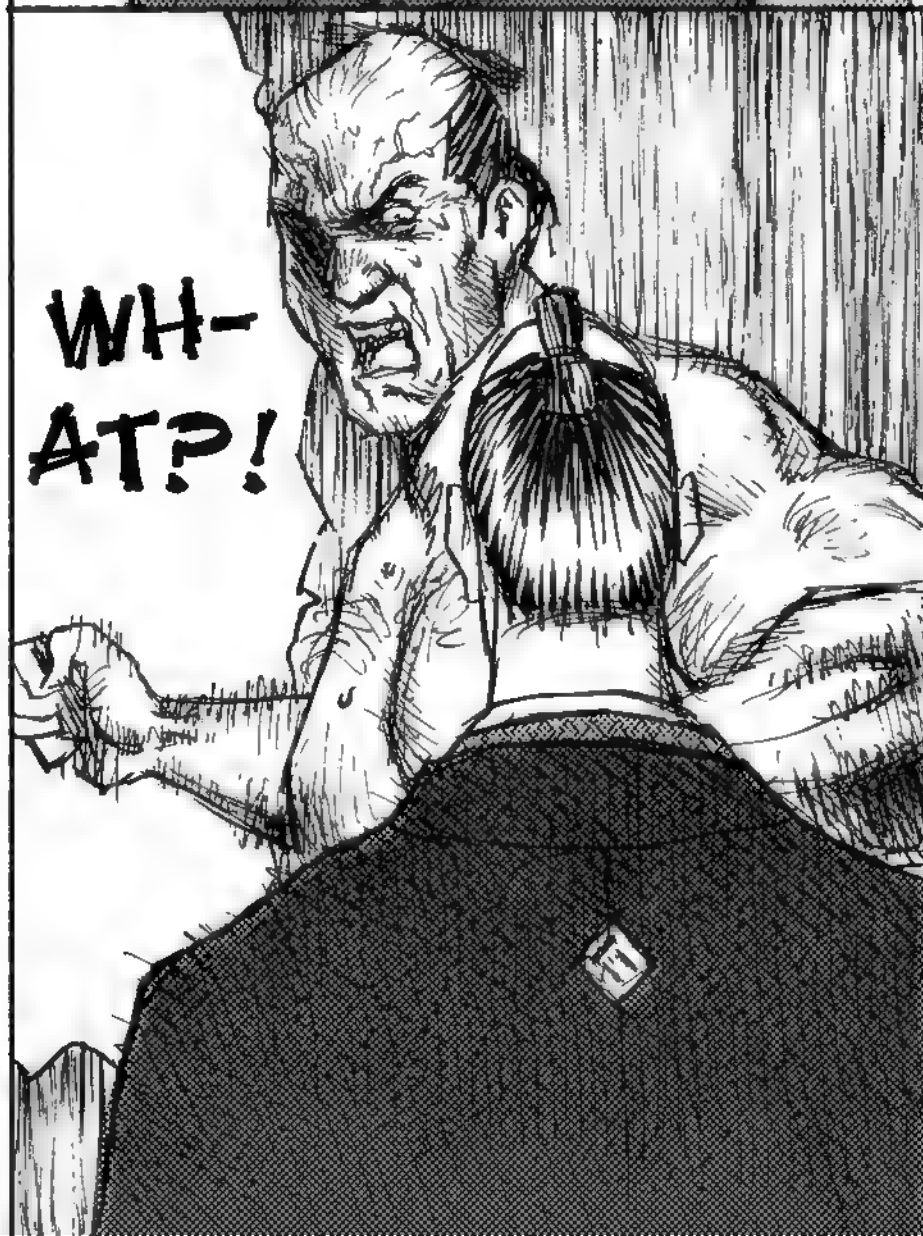


I'LL FUCKING KILL YOU!

I'LL KILL YOU!

HEY, STOP.

WAI....



WH-AT?!
WH-AT?!

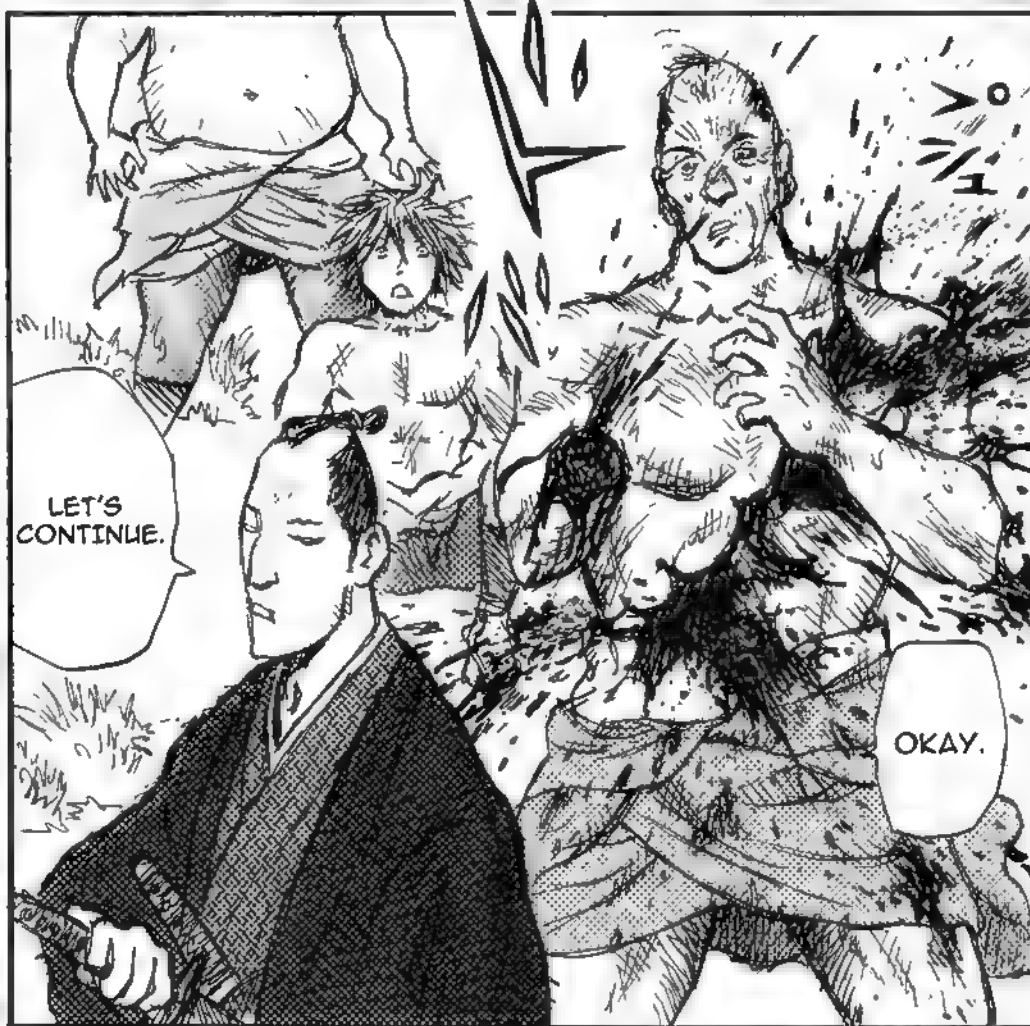


HEY.

STOP IT.













CHAPTER 2

WHAT I'M MISSING



AND AFTER
THE LAND TAX,
WE ARE LEFT
WITH NOTHING.

THERE'S
NOTHING
I CAN DO,
USHI, WE
KEEP HAVING
A BAD CROP.

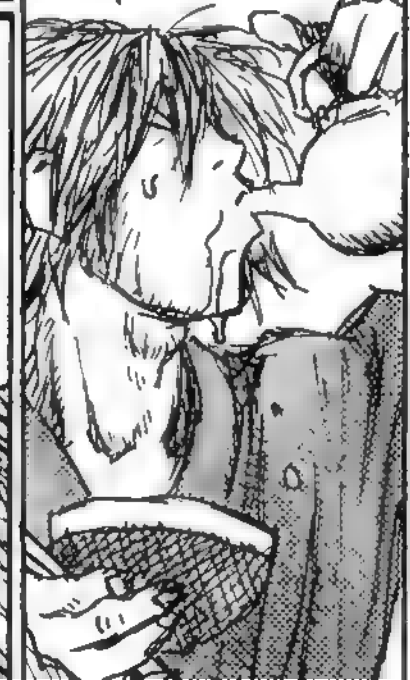
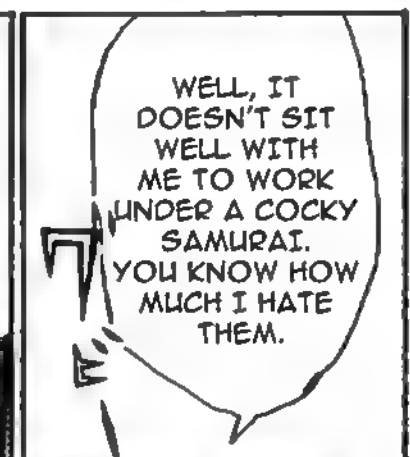
RIGHT
AWAY.

GIVE ME
ANOTHER
BOWL,
CHIYO.

NO MATTER
HOW MANY
BOWLS OF THIS
LIGHT RICE
PORRIDGE
I EAT, I'M NOT
GETTING FULL.

HEY.







KYAAA!



GOT IT?!

**UNTIL I
COME BACK,
YOU'LL TAKE
CARE OF THE
OLD HAG!**



**STOP IT,
USHI!**

**I'LL NEVER
SELL YOU TO
A WHOREHOUSE!**

**DON'T YOU
EVER SAY
THAT AGAIN!**



**I'M
BACK!**

**BRO
USHI!**



BROTHER...



DID
SOME-
THING
HAPPEN?



I'LL
PREPARE
FOOD FOR
YOU.

?

OH,
YONEKICHI,
YOU'RE BACK



UHEHE.
I'VE NO OTHER
CHOICE IF
YOU ASK ME,
CHIYO-CHAN.

PLEASE
TAKE CARE
OF MY
BROTHER.



NO.

EVERYTHING
IS OKAY,
YONEKICHI-
SAN.



SHUT UP!

BRO,
CHIYO-CHAN
IS REALLY
CUTE,
ISN'T SHE?



HUH?

YOU
ALSO GOT
EMPLOYED
BY THE
SAMURAI
CALLED
SHIMADA-
SAMA?



OH,
ICHIZOU!



APPARENTLY
HE MADE THE
PEOPLE CARRY
BAGS OR
SOMETHING.



YEAH.

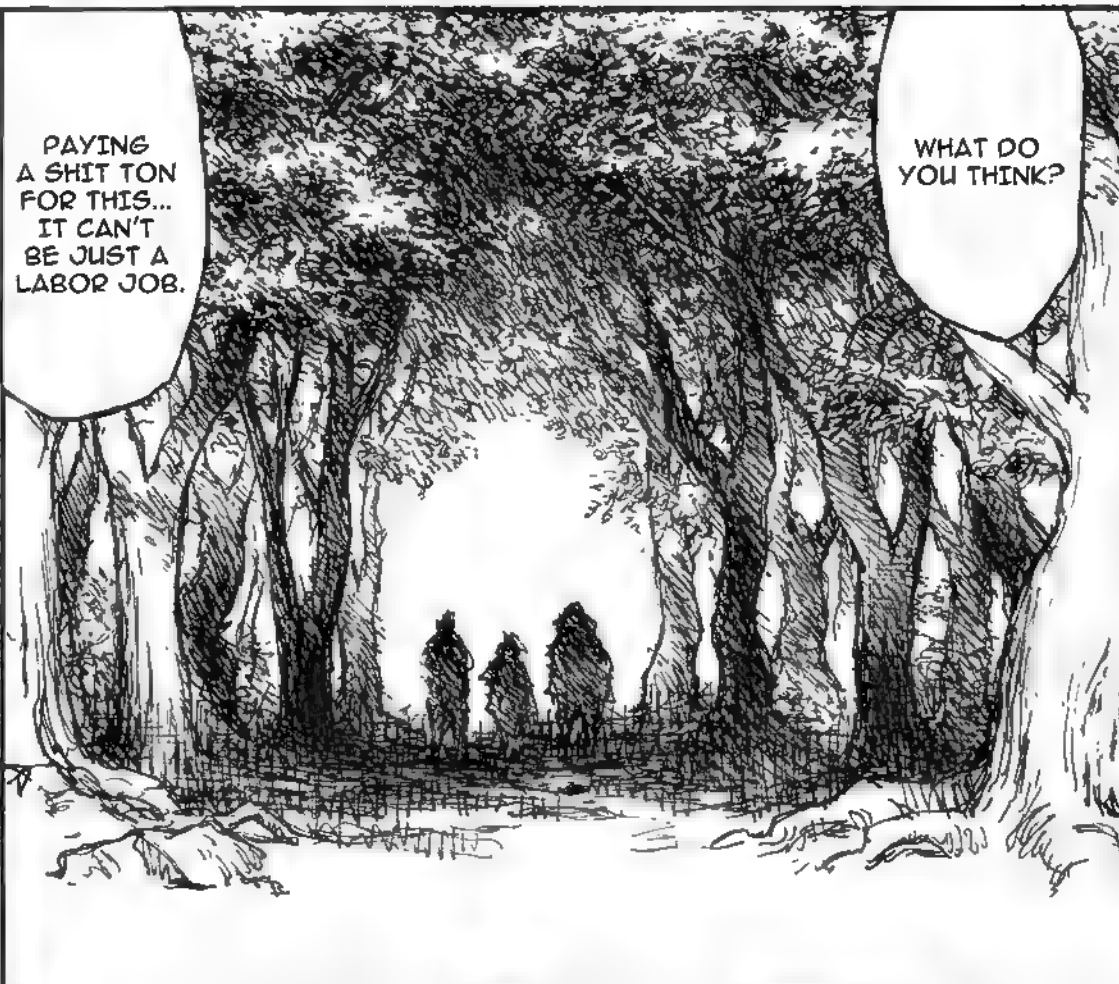
WHAT ELSE?
DID HE GATHER
THE PEASANTS
AT THE
KAMIKOIWA
VILLAGE
AS WELL?

SINCE
YOU'RE
CARRYING
LUGGAGE,
ARE YOU
WITH US?



IT
PAYS WELL,
AFTER ALL.

SOUNDS
SUSPICIOUS,
BUT...



PAYING
A SHIT TON
FOR THIS...
IT CAN'T
BE JUST A
LABOR JOB.

WHAT DO
YOU THINK?



IT WASN'T
NECESSARY
TO KILL HIM...

I'VE HEARD
THAT HE
GOT KILLED.

OH YEAH.
I FELT SORRY
FOR GYUJIZOU
WHO GOT
SLASHED.



HE'S
PLANNING
SOME-
THING.

MM-
HM.

DUNNO,
BUT THAT
SHIMADA
GUY...



WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN BY
SUSPI-
CIOUS?

WHAT IS HE
PLANNING
FOR US
PEASANTS
TO DO?



NO MATTER
HOW HARD
A PEASANT
WORKS,
HE CAN'T DEFY
A SAMURAI.
THAT'S HOW
THIS SOCIETY
WORKS.

THAT'S
BESIDE
THE POINT.



NOBODY
COULD BEAT
HIM IN A
FIGHT...

HE WAS
A GRAND
CHAMPION OF
HIS VILLAGE,
AFTER ALL.



YEAH!
WE ALL
WOULDN'T
LOSE TO THE
STRONGEST
SAMURAI!

EHP

THAT
AIN'T OKAY,
BRO USHI!



HMP



YOU'RE
JESTING...

THAT'S
EXACTLY
WHAT
HAPPENED.



THE AIR
IS SURE
NICE IN THE
COUNTRY-
SIDE.



OH,
SHEESH.

KOJIMA
AND THE
OTHERS ARE
SINGING,
TOO.



FUCKING
SAMURAI!

GET LOST
ALREADY!



HEY,
PEASANTS.



INDEED.



WHAT
CAN WE DO
FOR YOU?

MILORD.



CAN WE REACH
SHIMOUSA'S
SAKURA BY
FOLLOWING
THIS WAY?

I'VE A
QUESTION.



DON'T STRAY
FROM THE ROAD
MIDWAY AND
YOU WILL BE
THERE.

YES, MILORD.
YOU HAVE
TO GO
THIS WAY.



I HOPE
YOU DON'T
TAKE IT THE
WRONG WAY.

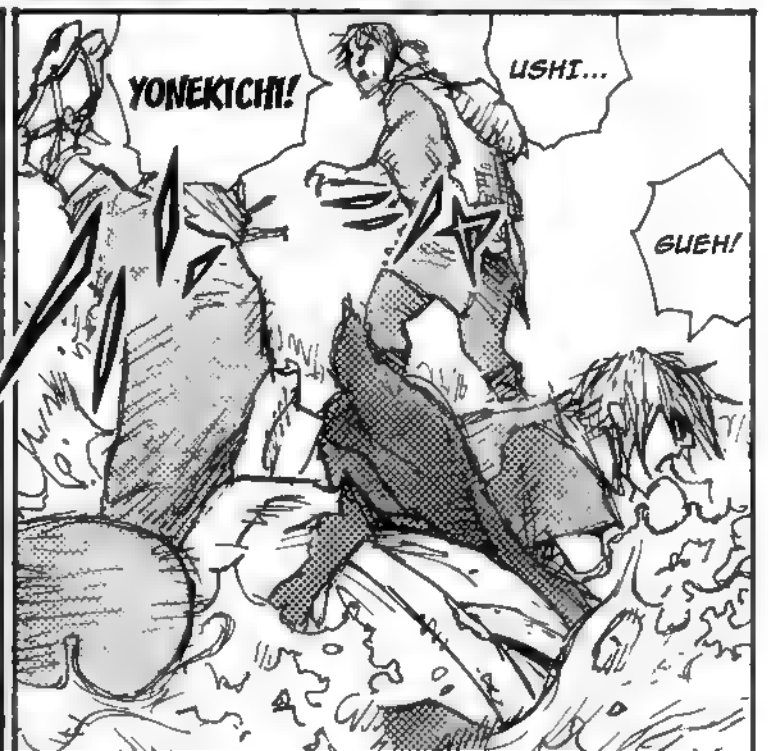
YOU'RE VERY
HOSPITABLE
PEASANTS.

I'D LIKE
TO THANK
YOU, BUT I
DON'T HAVE
ANYTHING
DECENT TO
GIVE.



I SEE.

MM-HM.

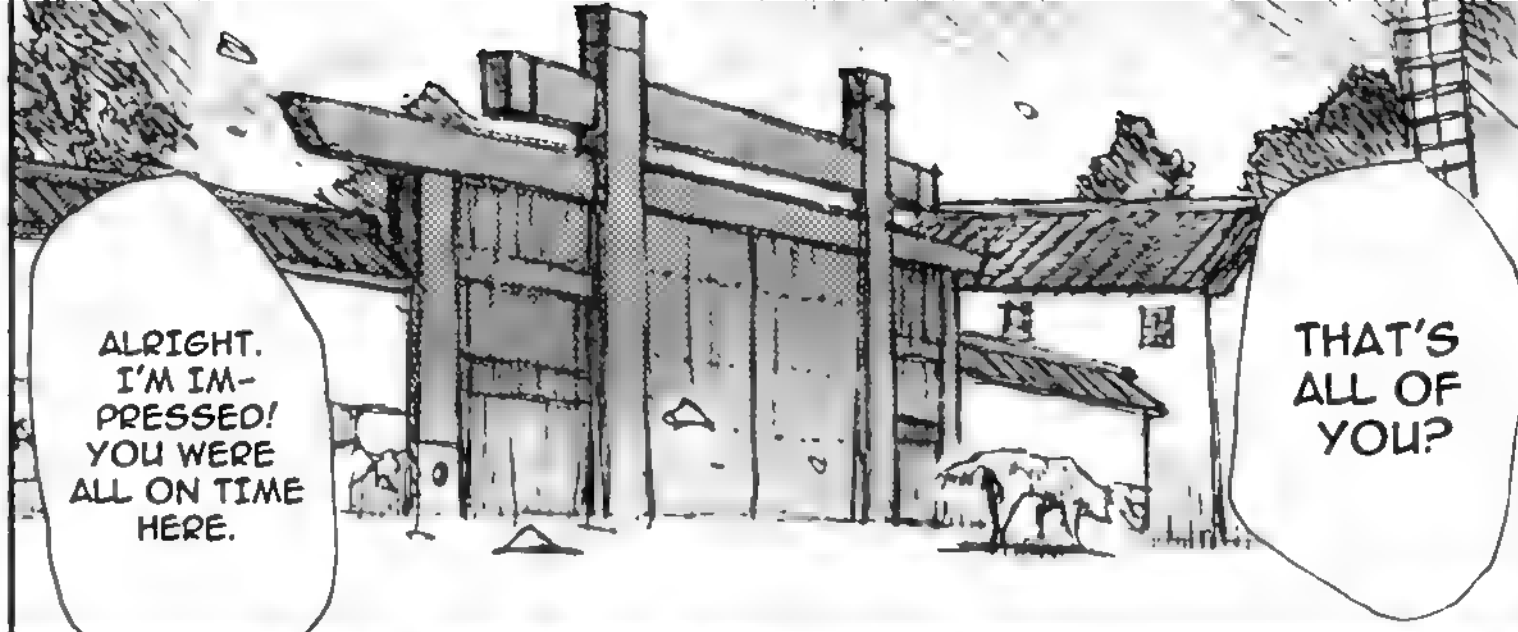




YEP.







ALRIGHT.
I'M IM-
PRESSED!
YOU WERE
ALL ON TIME
HERE.

THAT'S
ALL OF
YOU?



STAND UP
AND ANSWER
WHEN I CALL
YOU OUT.

I'LL READ OUT
YOUR NAME
AND VILLAGE,
THEN.



UMEKICHI.

HERE!

KAMI-YATSUKA VILLAGE.



H-HERE!

KANAMACHI VILLAGE, RIHACHI.



HERE...

HANAMATA VILLAGE, SHINPEI.



HERE!

PLEASED TO MEET YOU.

IKOU VILLAGE, CHIYO-MATSU.



HERE!

HE'S HUGE.

SHISHIHONE VILLAGE, YONEKICHI.



HERE.

KAMIKOIWA VILLAGE, ICHIZOU.



UH. HERE.

KOAI FIELD, GENJI.

I'M SO PISSED...



HERE.

OOSONE
VILLAGE,
-WASA-
BURI.



HEERE!

TOGASAKI
VILLAGE,
SENTA.



HERE!



USHI-
GOROU.

HIGASHI-
ICHINOE
VILLAGE,



AND
THIS IS
WADA
ROKUROU-
DONO.

MY
NAME IS
SHIMADA
KOUNO-
SUKE.

NICE
TO MEET
YOU.

THE WAY
THOSE
PEASANTS
REPLY IS
PISSING
ME OFF...



IT
MAKES
TEN OF
YOU.

THAT'S
ALL.



DURING YOUR EMPLOYMENT, IT'S PROHIBITED TO LEAVE THIS RESIDENCE WITHOUT PERMISSION.

IF YOU DISOBEY OUR ORDERS WE WILL...

I'LL SAY THIS FROM THE BEGINNING. DON'T EXPECT TO RETURN HOME FOR ABOUT THREE MONTHS.

IF IT TAKES LONGER, WE WILL COMPENSATE YOU FOR EACH DAY, SO DON'T WORRY.

...KILL YOU

I'LL EXPLAIN WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT.

NOW, BACK TO BUSINESS.



PEOPLE CALL
THESE ACTS
"TERROR" AND
THEY CAUSE
ANXIETY
AMONG
THE PEOPLE.

THIS IS
THE WORK OF
THE WARRIORS
OF SATSUMA
DOMAIN AND
THE RONINS
THEY HAVE
HIRED.

RIGHT NOW,
THE INNER CITY
OF EDO IS
SUBJECT TO
RAMPANT ARSON,
ROBBERIES
AND RANDOM
KILLINGS.
THE PUBLIC
ORDER IS IN
A BAD STATE.

THESE
ACTS ARE
PERPETRATED
BY OUTLAWS
TRYING TO
OVERTHROW
THE GOVERN-
MENT.



YEAH.

ALTHOUGH
IT'S
PEACEFUL
IN THE
COUNTRY-
SIDE.

I'VE
HEARD
OF THIS.



EHP?

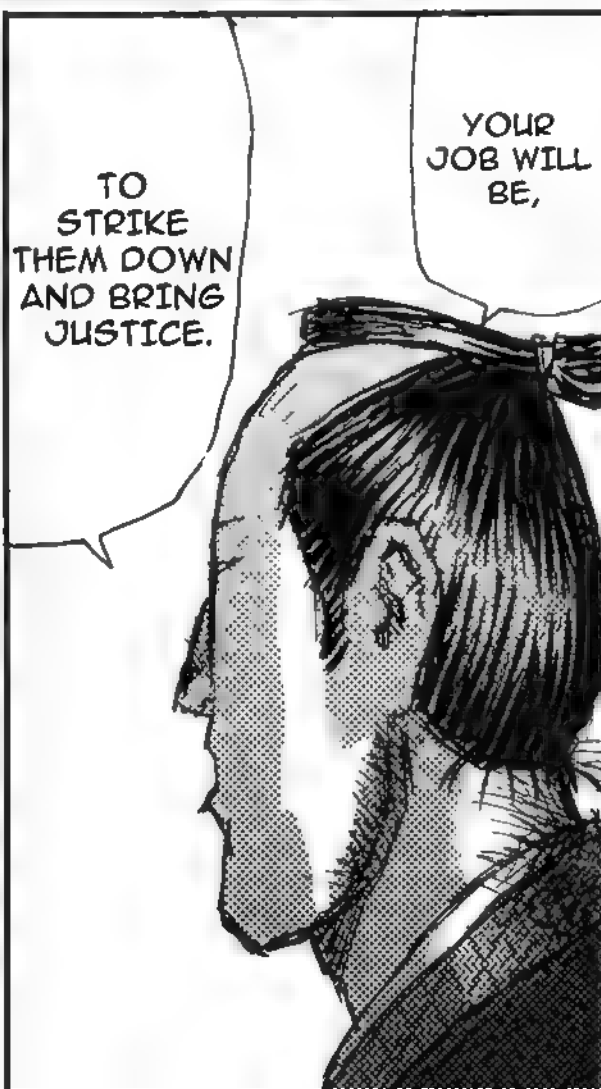
TO
STRIKE
THEM DOWN
AND BRING
JUSTICE.

YOUR
JOB WILL
BE,



...OF
SATSUMA?

WE
WILL FIGHT
AGAINST
THE
SAMURAI...



YOUR
JOB WILL
BE,

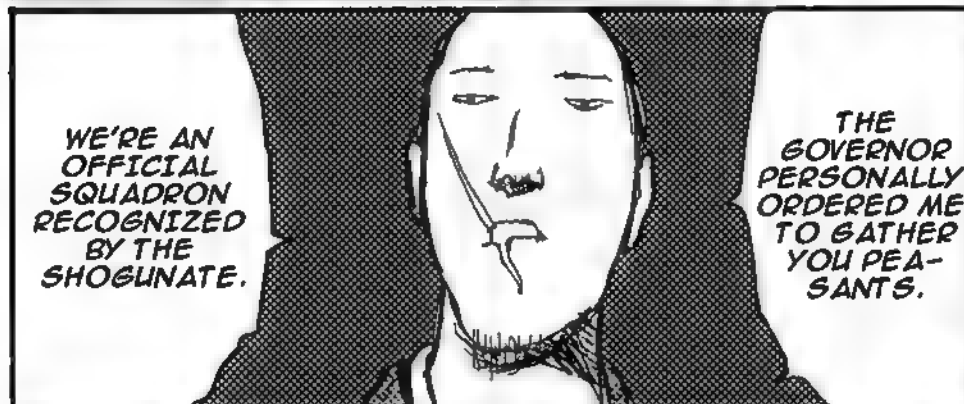


NO NEED
TO BE
WORRIED
ABOUT
THAT.



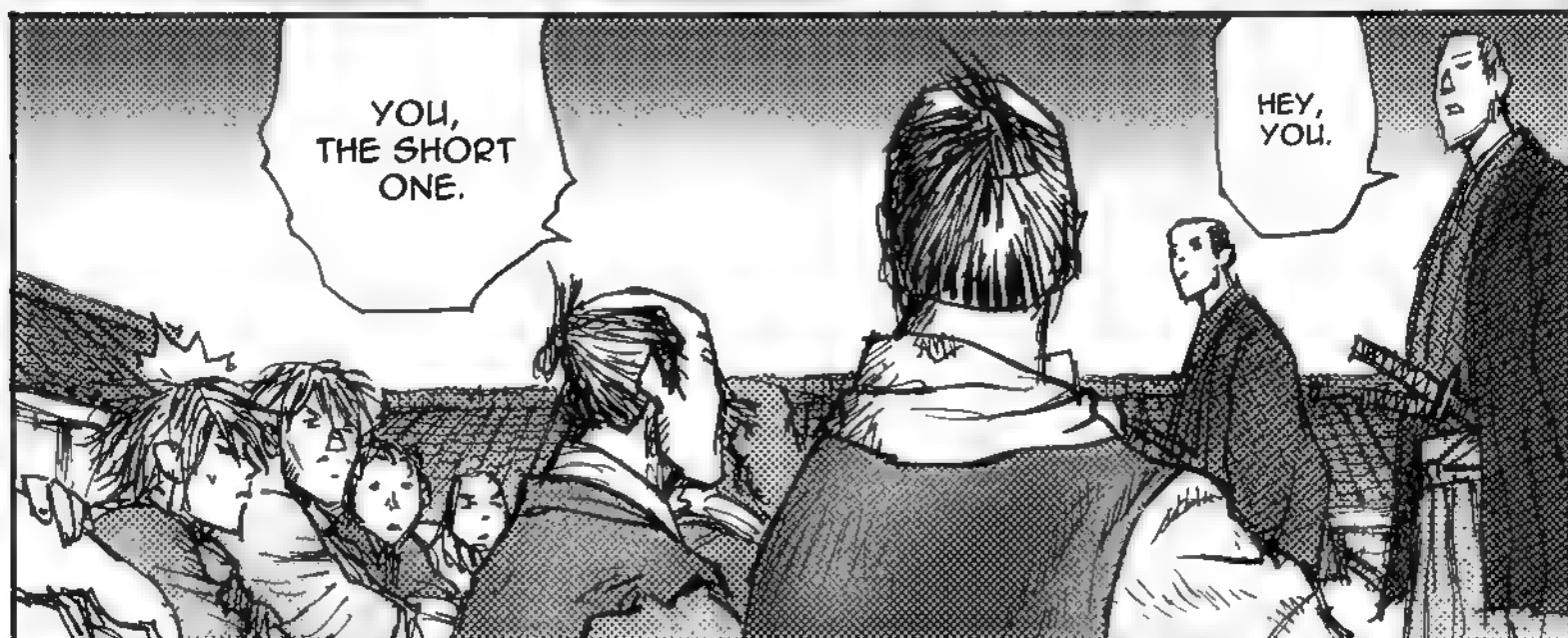
IF PEASANTS
LIKE US
ATTACK
SAMURAIS,

WE
WILL BE
EXECUTED,
THOUGH...



WE'RE AN
OFFICIAL
SQUADRON
RECOGNIZED
BY THE
SHOGUNATE.

THE
GOVERNOR
PERSONALLY
ORDERED ME
TO GATHER
YOU PEA-
SANTS.



YOU,
THE SHORT
ONE.

HEY,
YOU.



HATE
SAMURAIS?

DO
YOU



USHIGOROU
IS THE
NAME.

A-AYE.



TSK.



NO SHIT.
OF COURSE
I HATE THEM...

...

WELL?
YOU CAN'T
ANSWER?



I'D
HATE THEM
SO MUCH,
THAT I
COULDN'T
STOP KILL-
ING THEM.

IF I
WERE A
PEASANT,



HMPH,
COWARD.

WELL...



THIS IS
THE PERFECT
OPPORTUNITY
TO FORGET
THE TROUBLES
YOU USUALLY
HAVE.

AND ON
TOP OF THAT,
YOU'LL
RECEIVE
TWO GOLD!



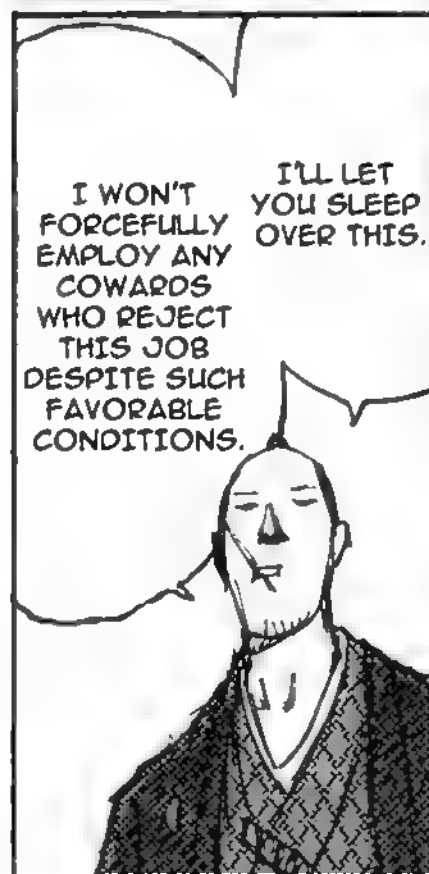
HAVEN'T
YOU THOUGHT
ABOUT
KILLING
THEM AT
LEAST
ONCE OR
TWICE?

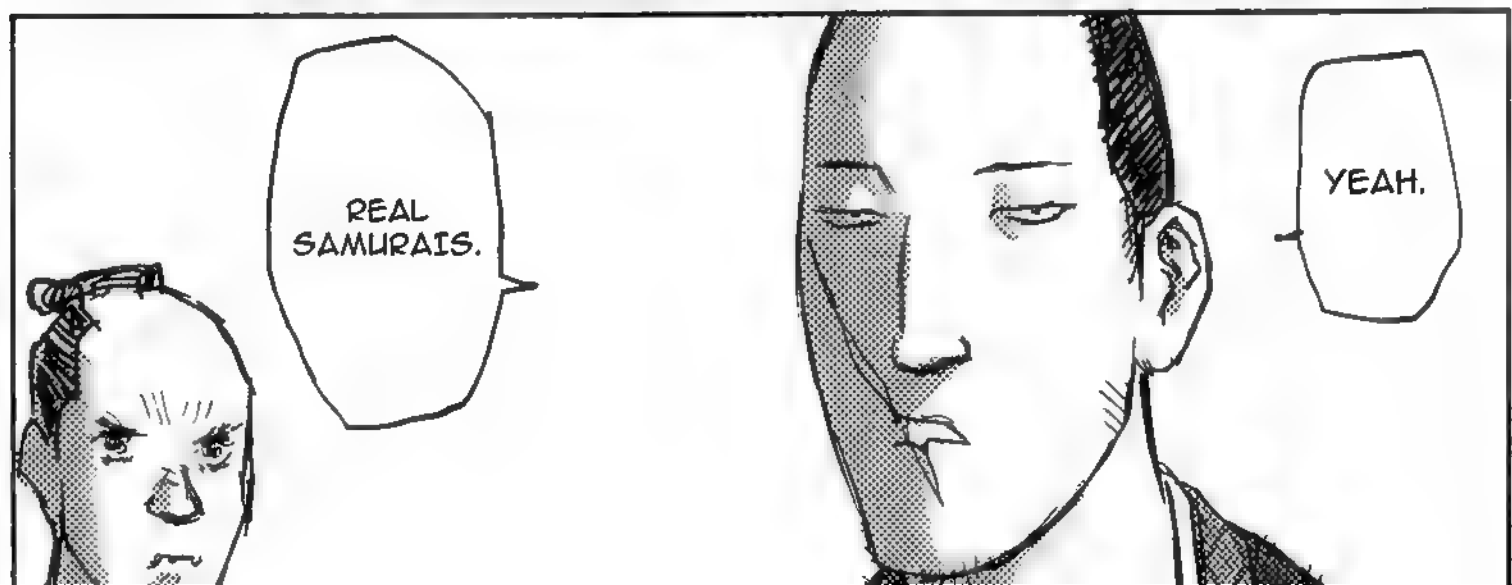
I
HAVEN'T!

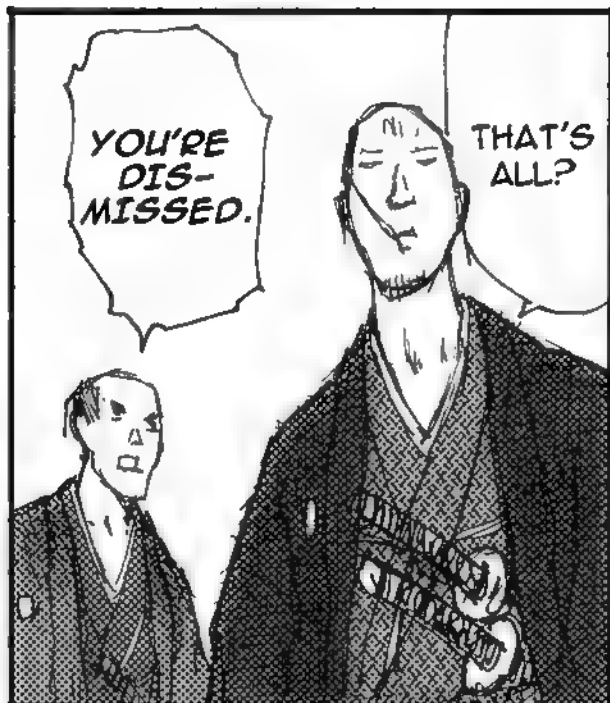


THEY
TAKE AWAY
WHAT YOU
HAVE WORKED
SO HARD ON
WITH THE
PRETEXT OF
"LAND TAX."

AND ON
TOP OF
THAT THEY
ARE ARRO-
GANT AND
RUB IT
INTO YOUR
FACE.



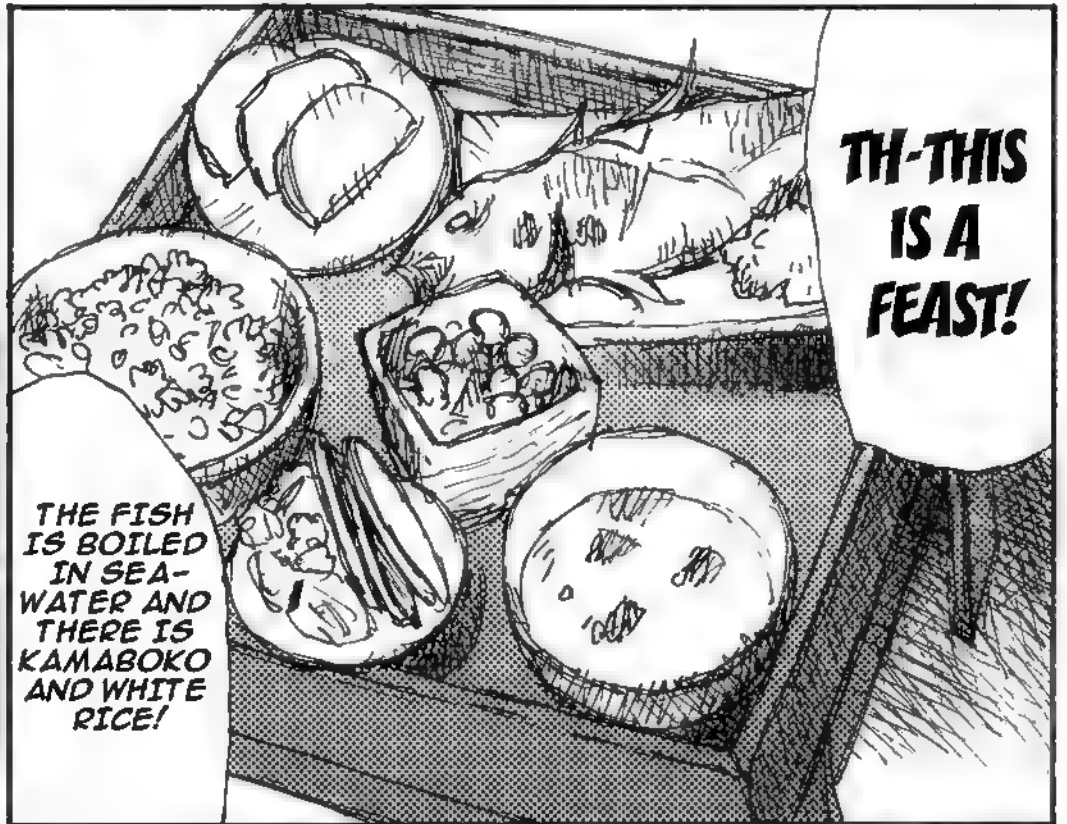






I'VE MADE
ENOUGH
FOOD TILL
TOMOR-
ROW.

YOU CAN
EAT AS
MUCH AS
YOU WANT.



THE FISH
IS BOILED
IN SEA-
WATER AND
THERE IS
KAMABOKO
AND WHITE
RICE!

**TH-THIS
IS A
FEAST!**



SO...
WHAT ARE
YOU GUYS
GONNA DO?

ARE YOU
ACCEPTING
THIS JOB,
SHINPEI?



UGAAH! YOU BASTARD!





HM?



IDIOTS WHO DON'T THINK THIS THOROUGHLY WILL BE USED AND THROWN AWAY.



THAT'S NOT IT.

YOU DON'T WANT TO BECOME A SAMURAI?



WHAT'S WRONG, USHI?

WHY THE GRIM FACE?



THIS SOUNDS ODD.

YET, THEY MAKE PEOPLE WHO DO THIS A SAMURAI?



THEY COULD HAVE DONE IT THEMSELVES.

YEAH... YOU HAVE A POINT.



THOSE SAMURAIS COULD HAVE DONE IT THEMSELVES.

WHY ARE THEY MAKING US PEASANTS DO THIS JOB?



SORRY, BUT MY GUT FEELING IS HARDLY WRONG.



I CAN'T TRUST HIM.

BESIDES, HAVE YOU SEEN THE LOOK ON THAT SHIMADA GUY'S FACE?



**COWARDS
AREN'T CUT
OUT TO BE
SAMURAI!**



**YOU AREN'T
CAUTIOUS,
YOU'RE JUST
SCARED!**

**CUT
IT OUT,
USHI.**



**TO MOVE
UP ON THE
LADDER,
YOU CAN'T
JUST USE
BRUTE
FORCE.
YOU HAVE
TO USE
YOUR HEAD
FOR THAT.**

**THERE
ARE ALL
SORTS
OF SAMU-
RAI!**

WHAT?

**AND WHAT'S
THE POINT
WHEN AN
IDIOT LIKE
YOU BECOMES
A SAMURAI?**



**IF YOU
THINK WORKING
IN THE FIELD
IS GOOD,
WHAT DO
YOU CALL
A SAMURAI
WHO STANDS
ON THE TOP?**

YEAH!

**RIGHT!
USHI,
YOU'RE
THINKING
TOO MUCH.**



**WHEN
YOU BECOME
A SAMURAI,
YOU CAN EAT
AS MUCH AS
YOU WANT.**

**BRO,
YOU'RE
OVER-
THINKING
THIS.**

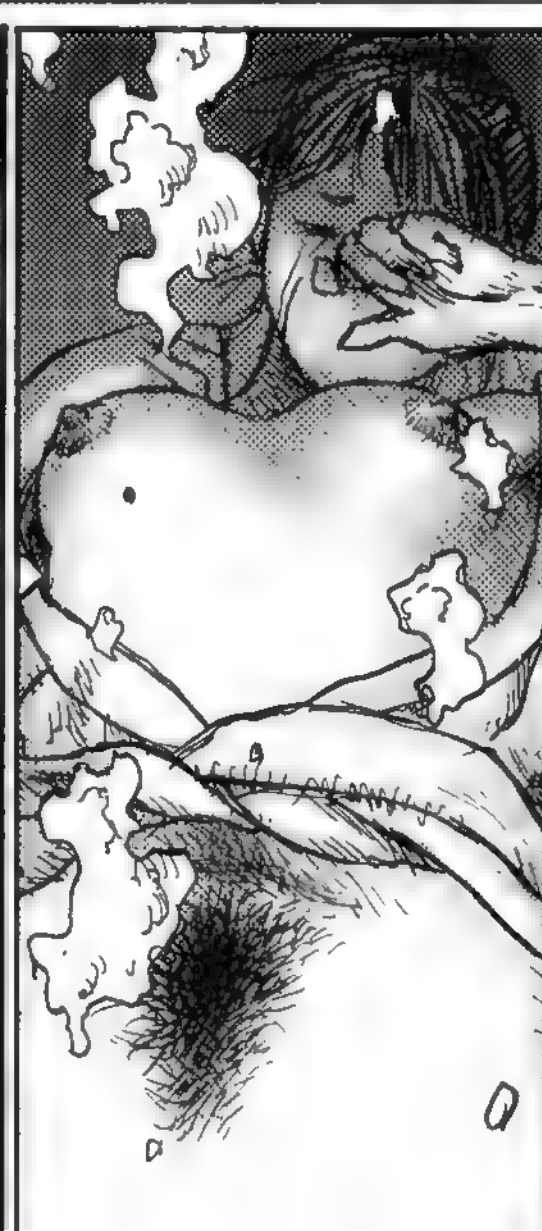
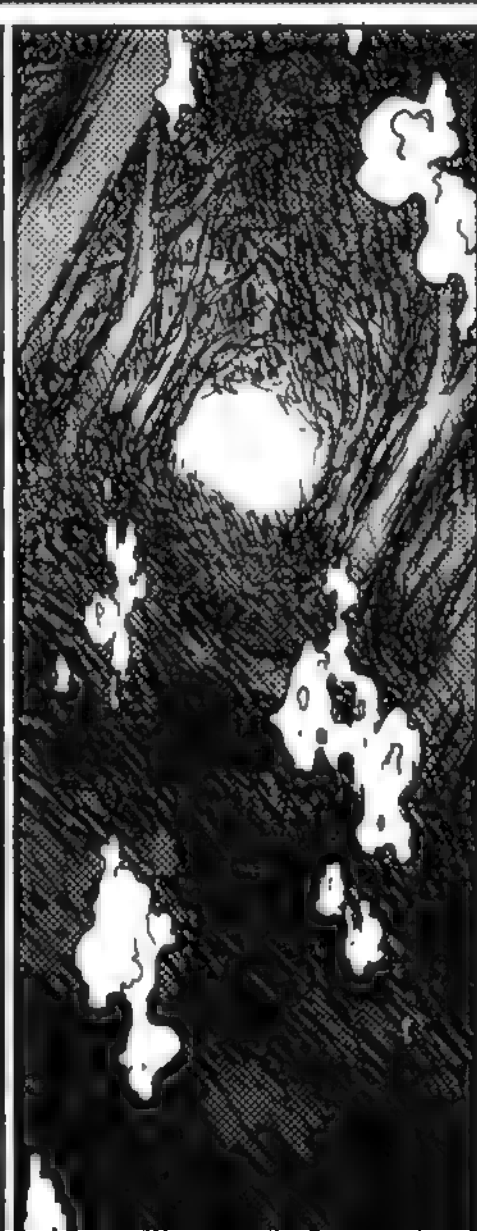
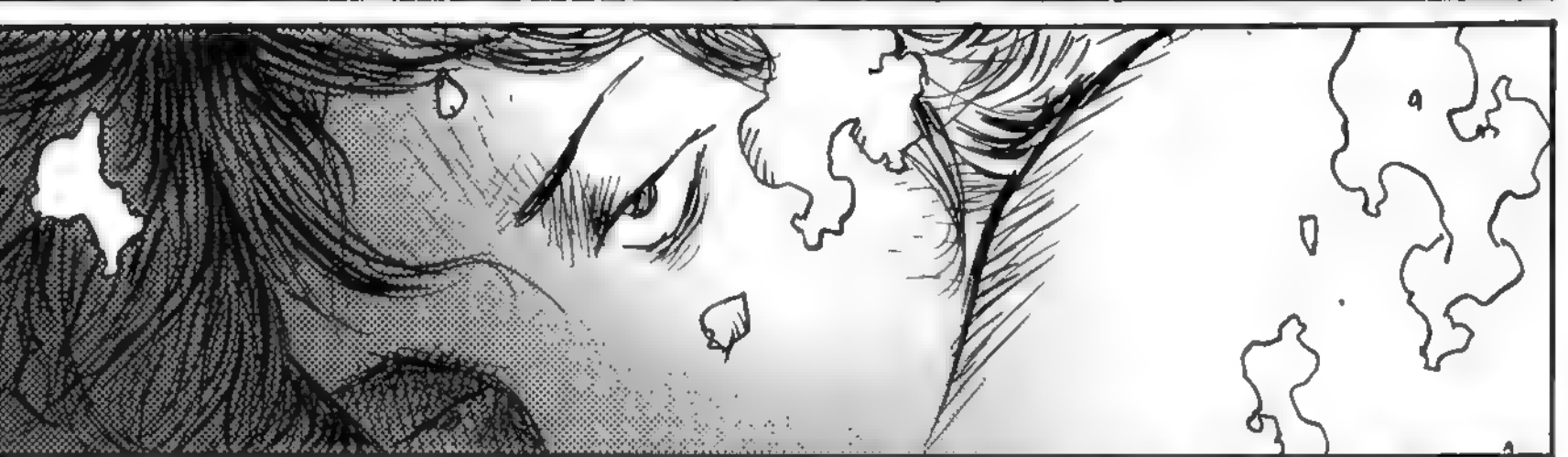
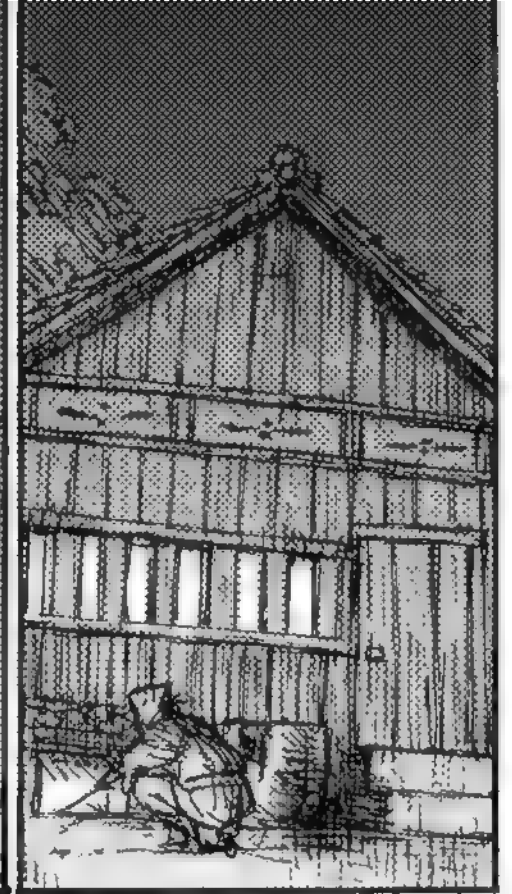
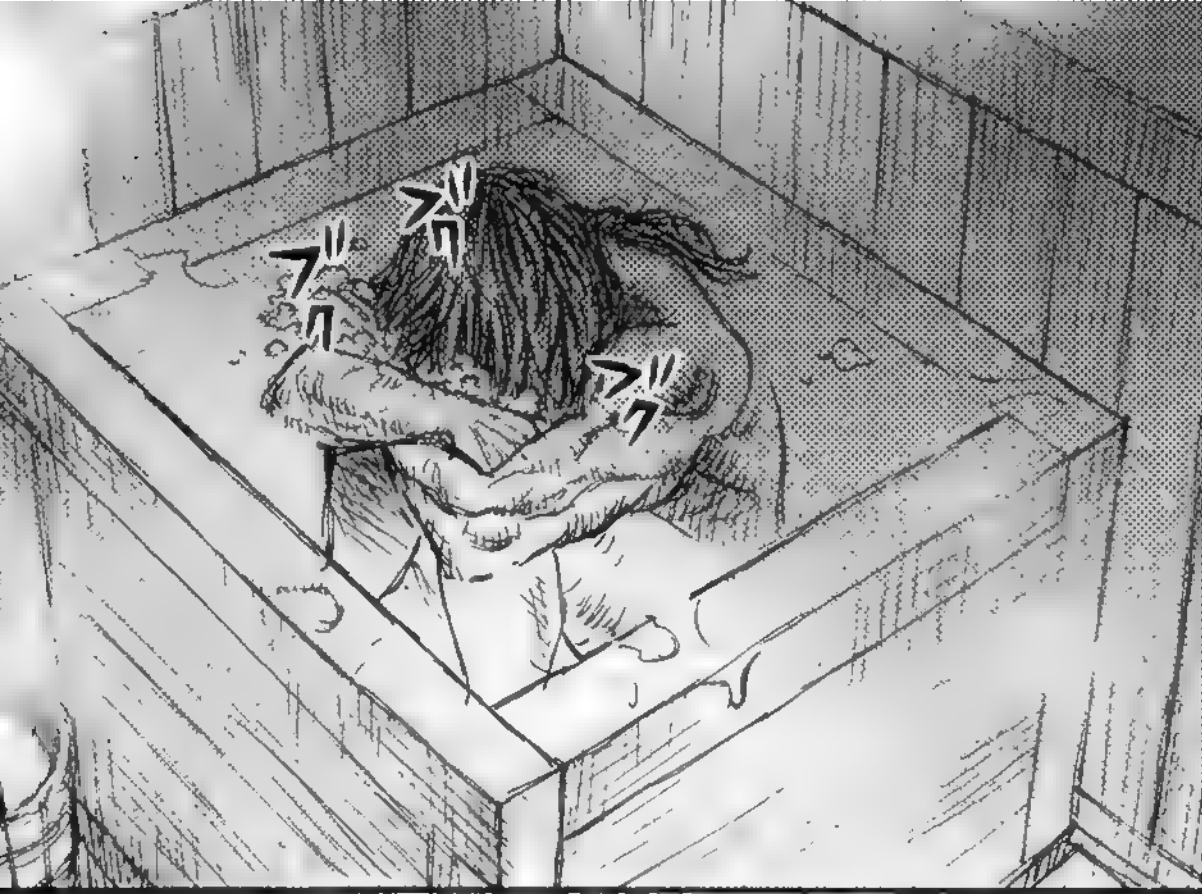


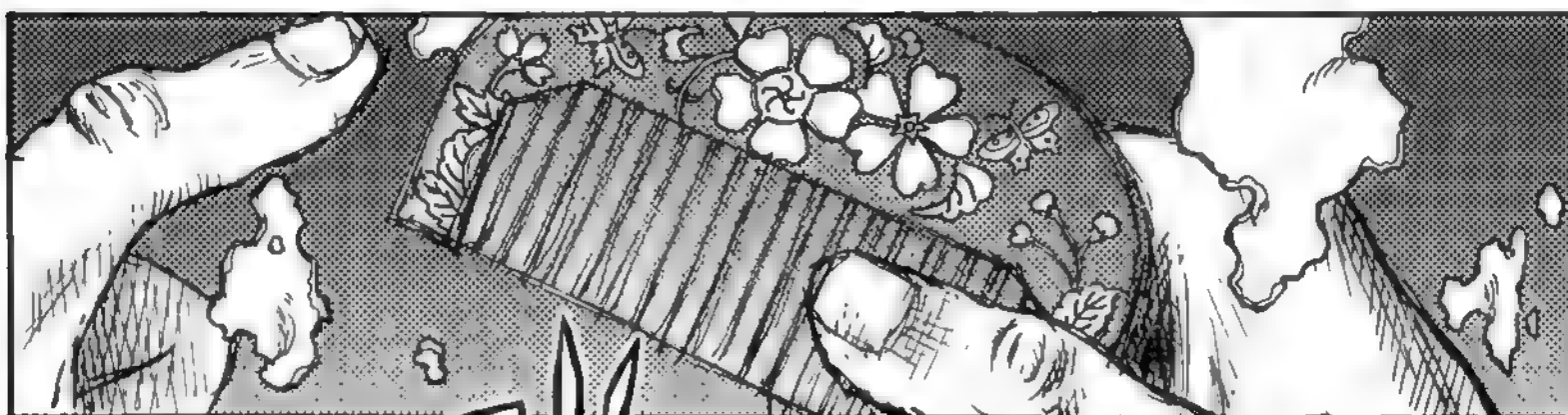
**EVERYONE
IS AGREEING
WITH ME.**

**YOU'RE
THE ONLY
IDIOT HERE.**

**SEE,
USHI?**

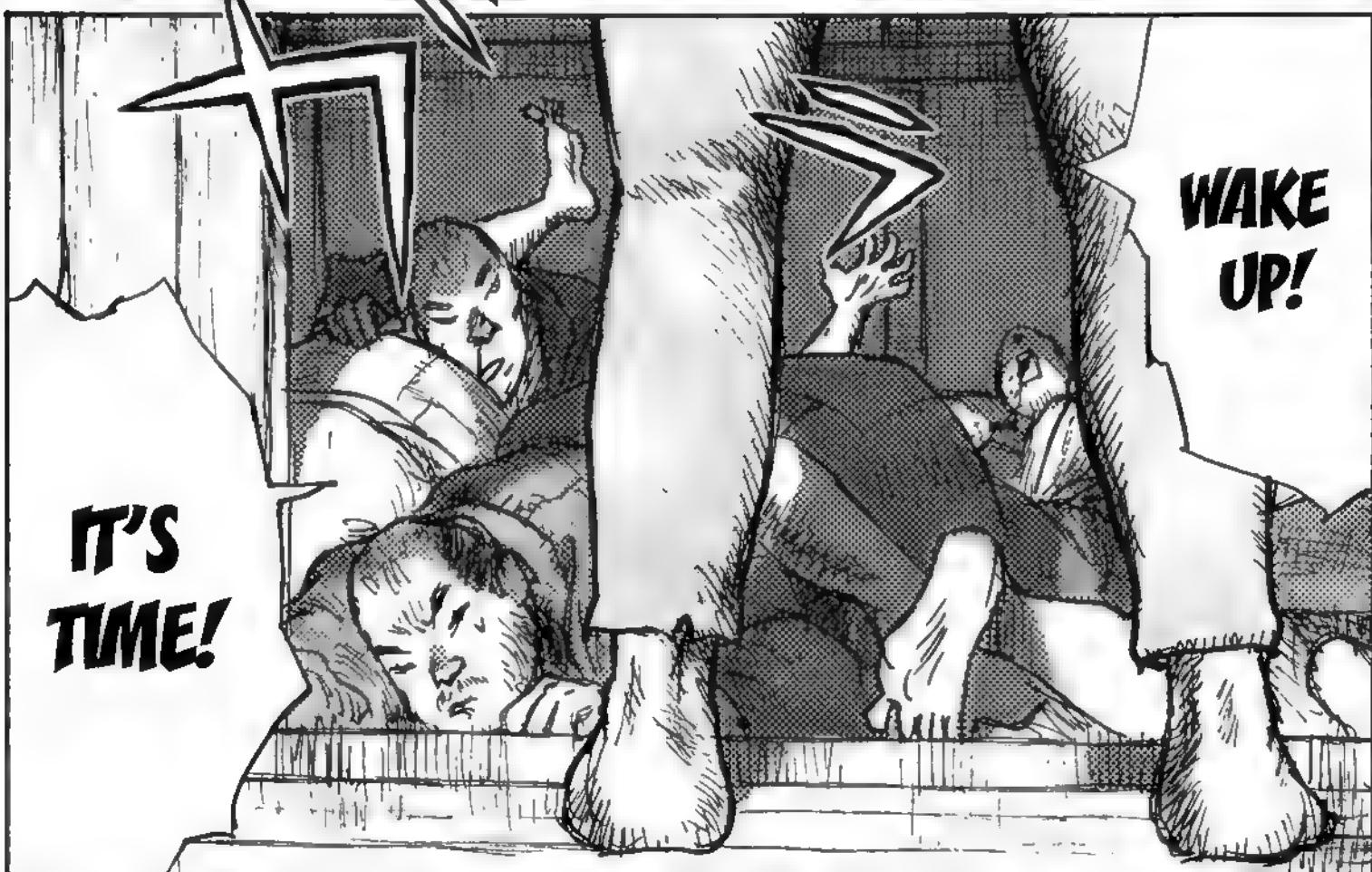






I'LL
ATTAIN
WHAT I'M
MISSING...

THE DANGEROUS
ONES ARE THOSE
WHO GRASP THE
WHOLE PICTURE
AND STAND
ON THE TOP.



**IT'S
TIME!**

**WAKE
UP!**



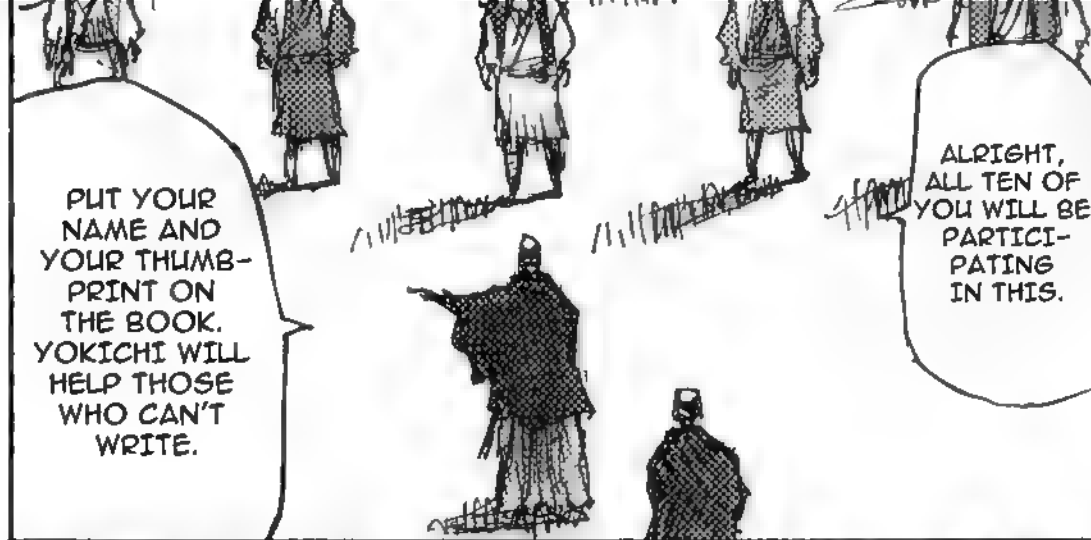
MM-HM.

S-SO
COLD...



**GET
MOVING!**

**FORM
A LINE!**



PUT YOUR NAME AND YOUR THUMB-PRINT ON THE BOOK. YOKICHI WILL HELP THOSE WHO CAN'T WRITE.

ALRIGHT, ALL TEN OF YOU WILL BE PARTICIPATING IN THIS.



THAT'S QUITE A NICE DISPLAY OF SPIRIT, PEASANTS.

LOOKS LIKE THERE ISN'T A SINGLE COWARD AMONG YOU.



WEREN'T YOU GOING TO RUN AWAY FROM THIS?

WHAT'S UP, USHI?

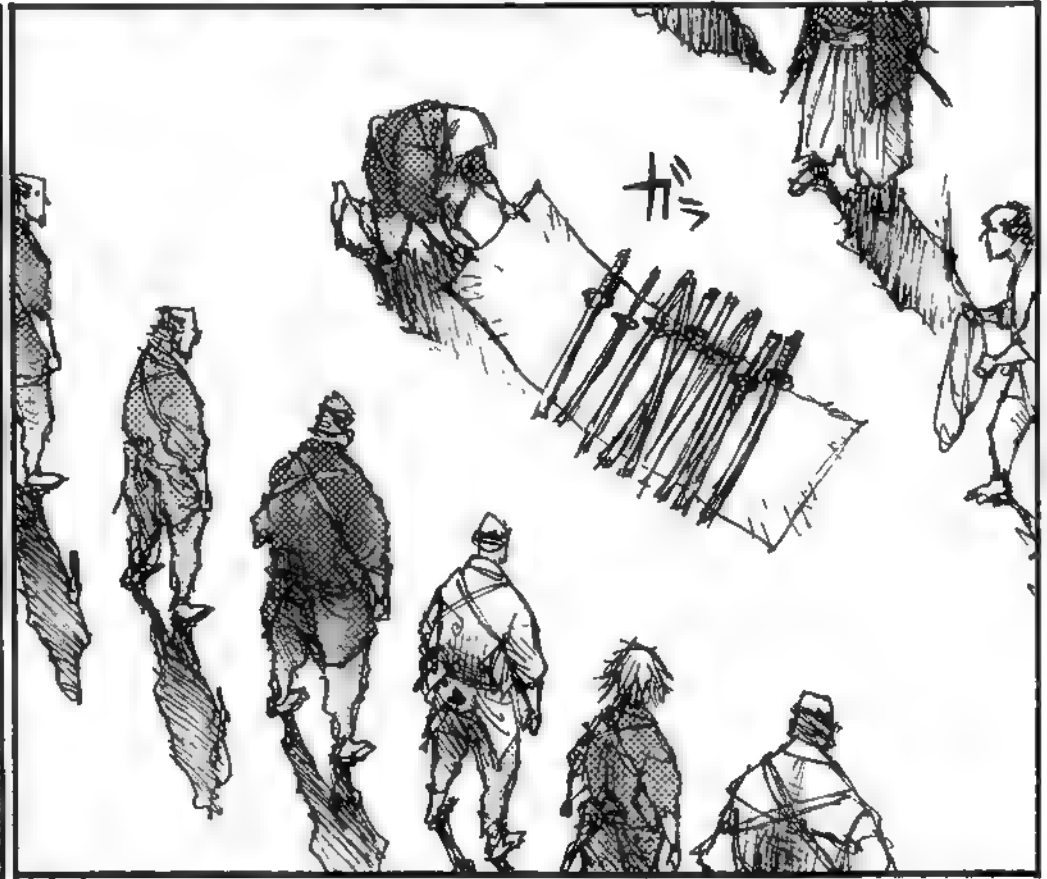
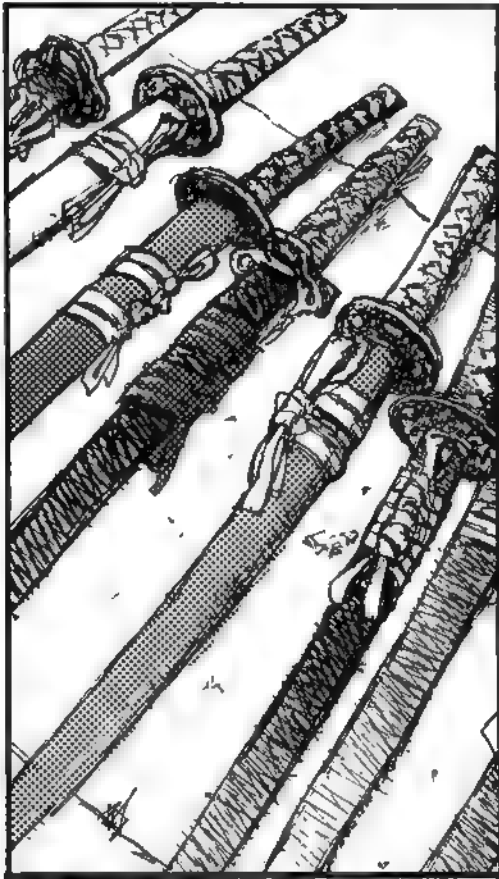


SHUT UP!

.....

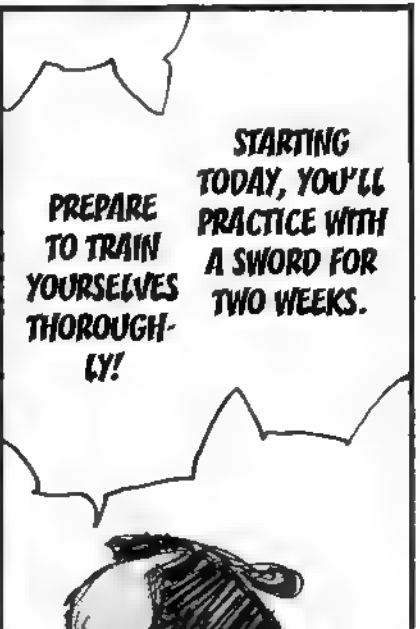
CHAPTER 3 **ONE-STRIKE, ONE-KILL SQUAD**



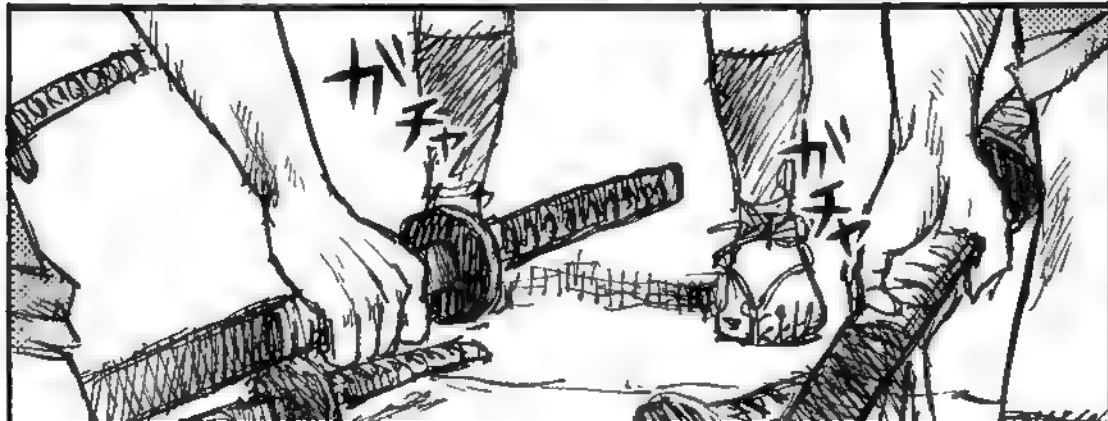


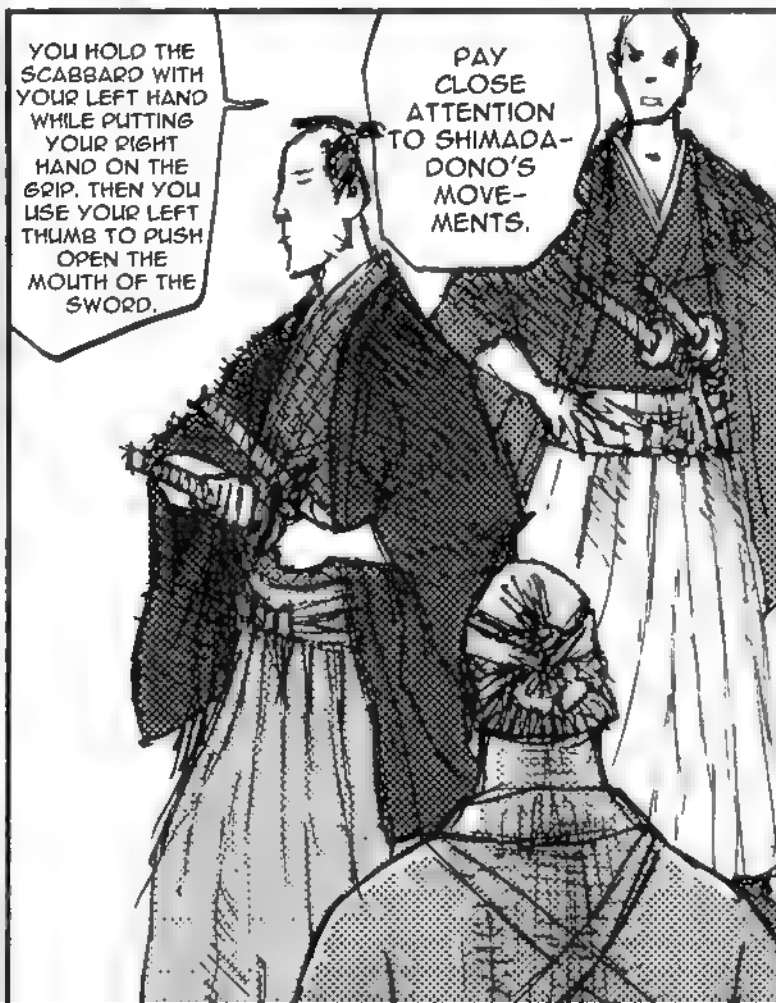
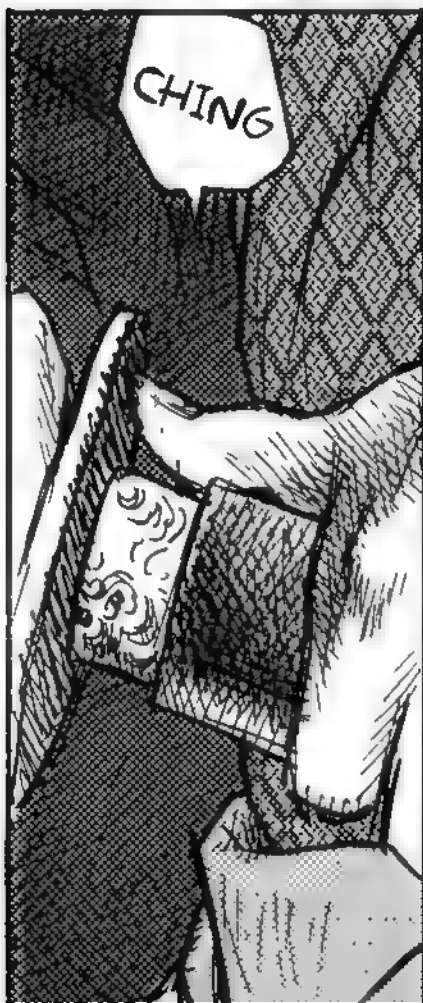
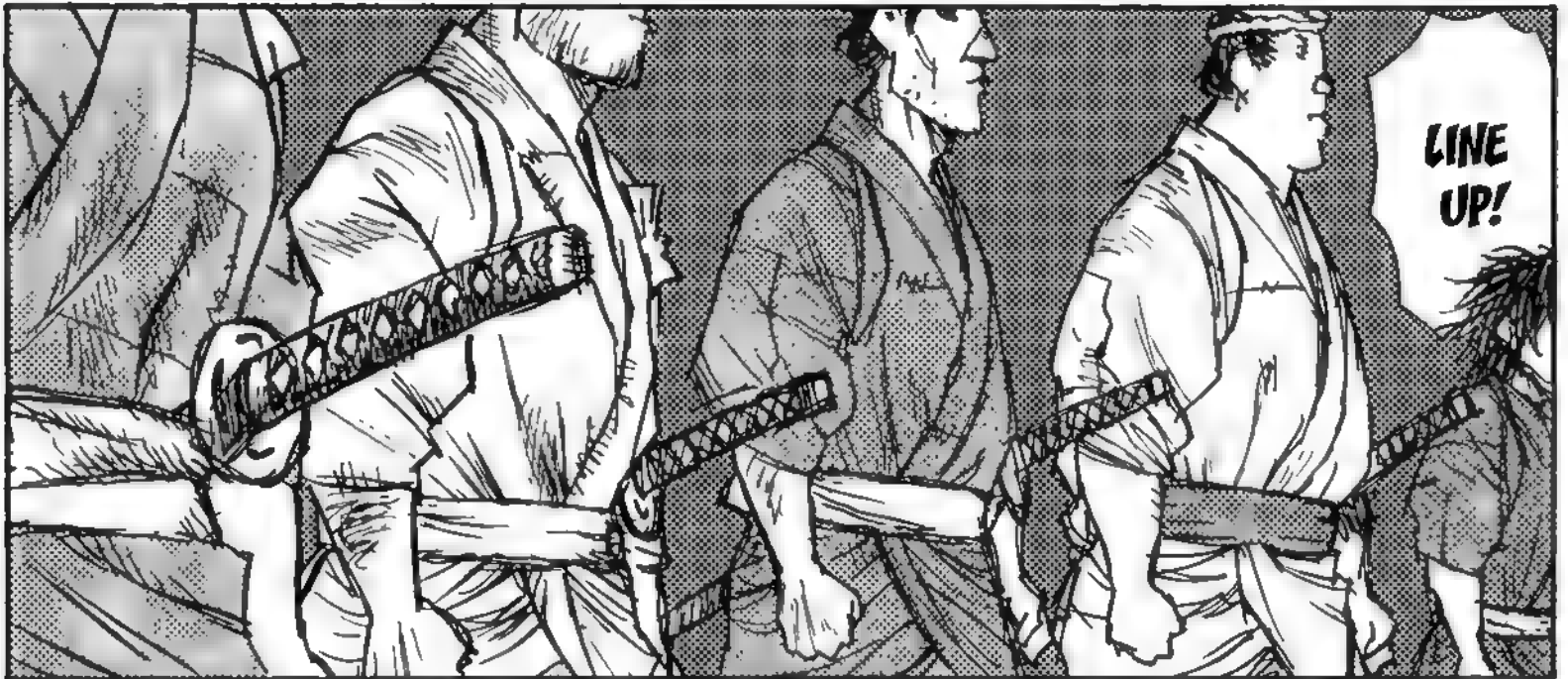
HURRY!

EVERYONE
TAKE ONE OF
THE SWORDS
AND WEAR IT
AROUND YOUR
HIPS LIKE I DO,
SO THE EDGE
POINTS TO THE
GROUND.



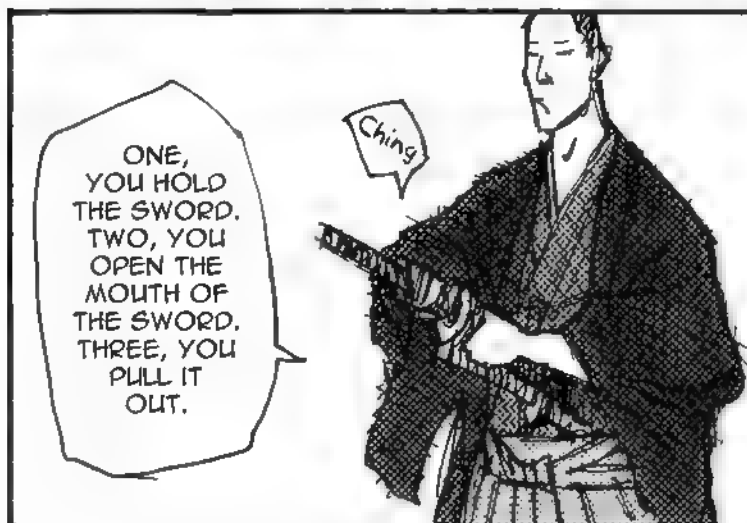
STARTING
TODAY, YOU'LL
PRACTICE WITH
A SWORD FOR
TWO WEEKS.
PREPARE
TO TRAIN
YOURSELVES
THOROUGH-
LY!







DON'T RUSH.
DO IT SLOWLY
AND WITH
CONFIDENCE.



ONE,
YOU HOLD
THE SWORD.
TWO, YOU
OPEN THE
MOUTH OF
THE SWORD.
THREE, YOU
PULL IT
OUT.

Ching



IT'S
YOUR TURN.
DO IT.

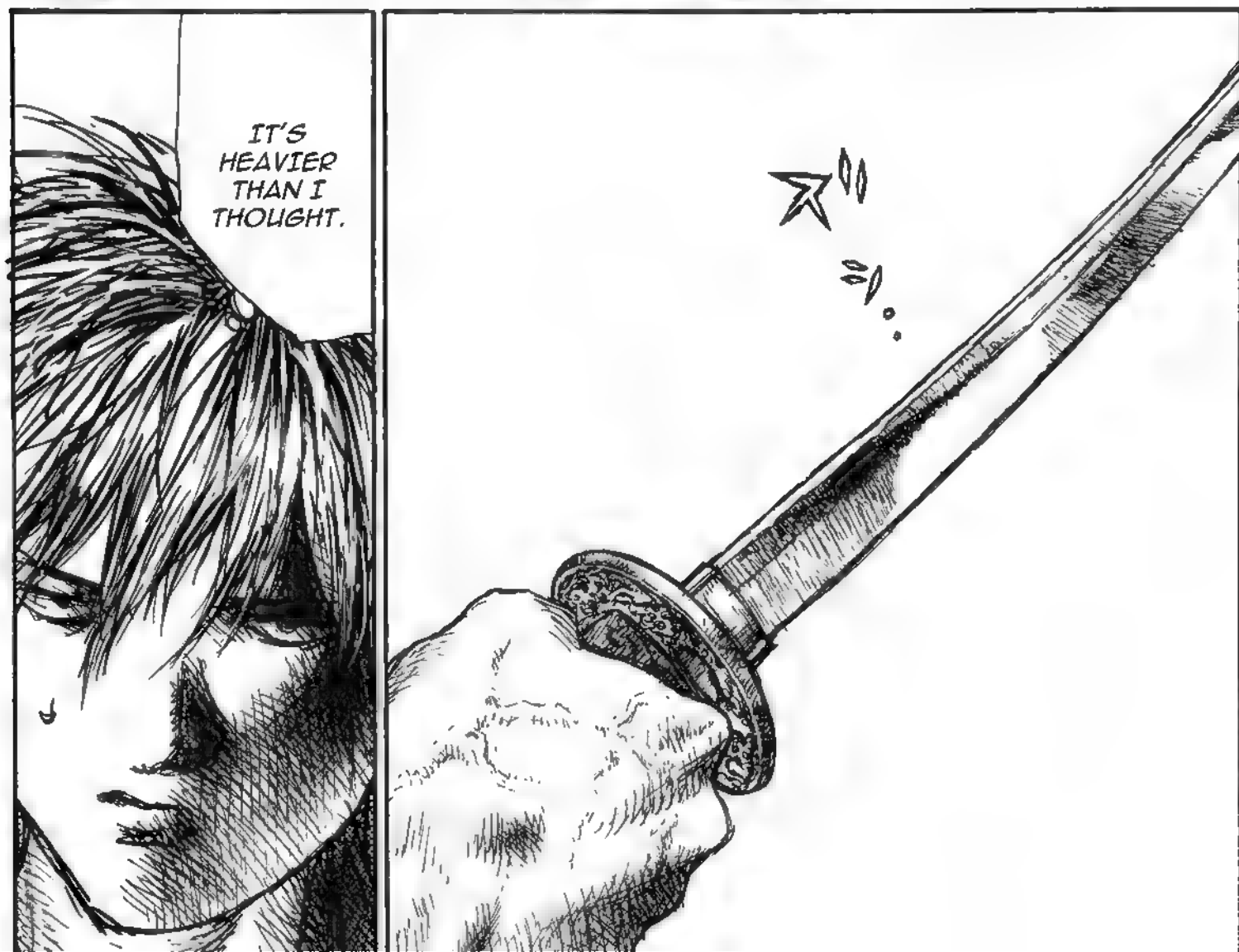


ONE!



READY?

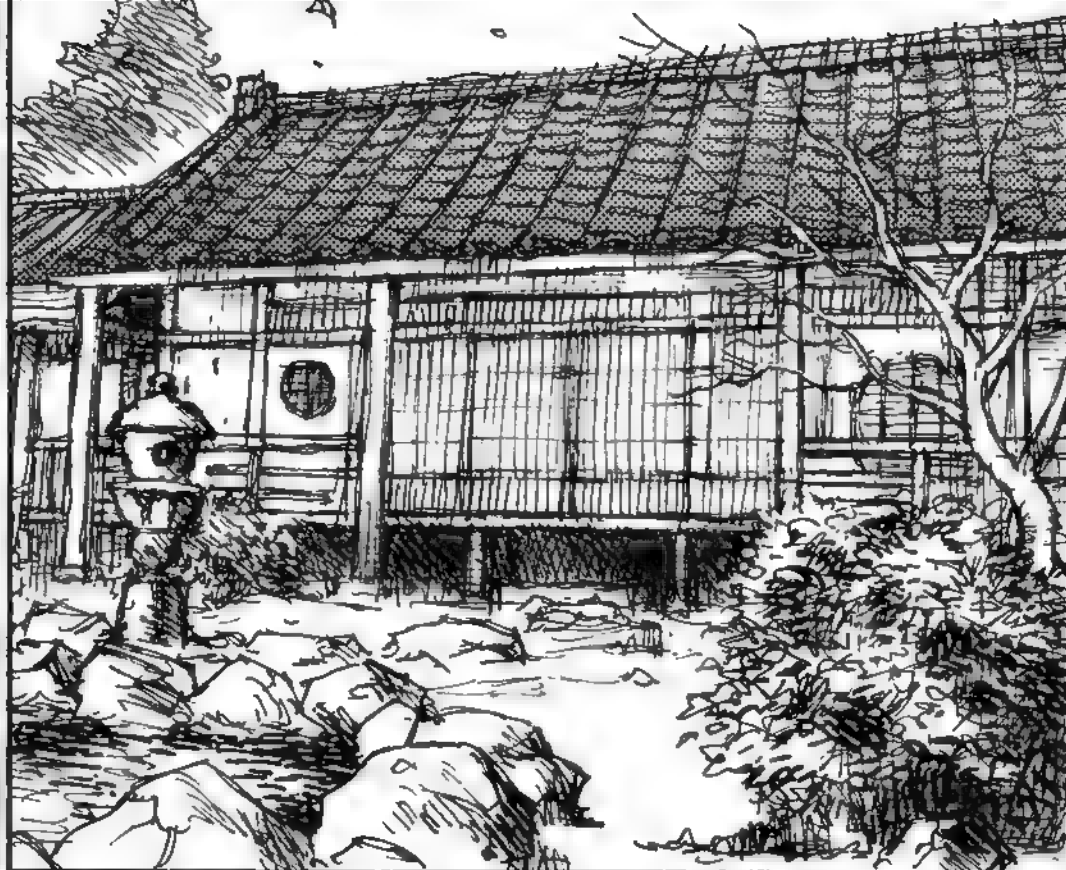
SPREAD
OUT A
LITTLE,
OR YOU'LL
HURT EACH
OTHER.





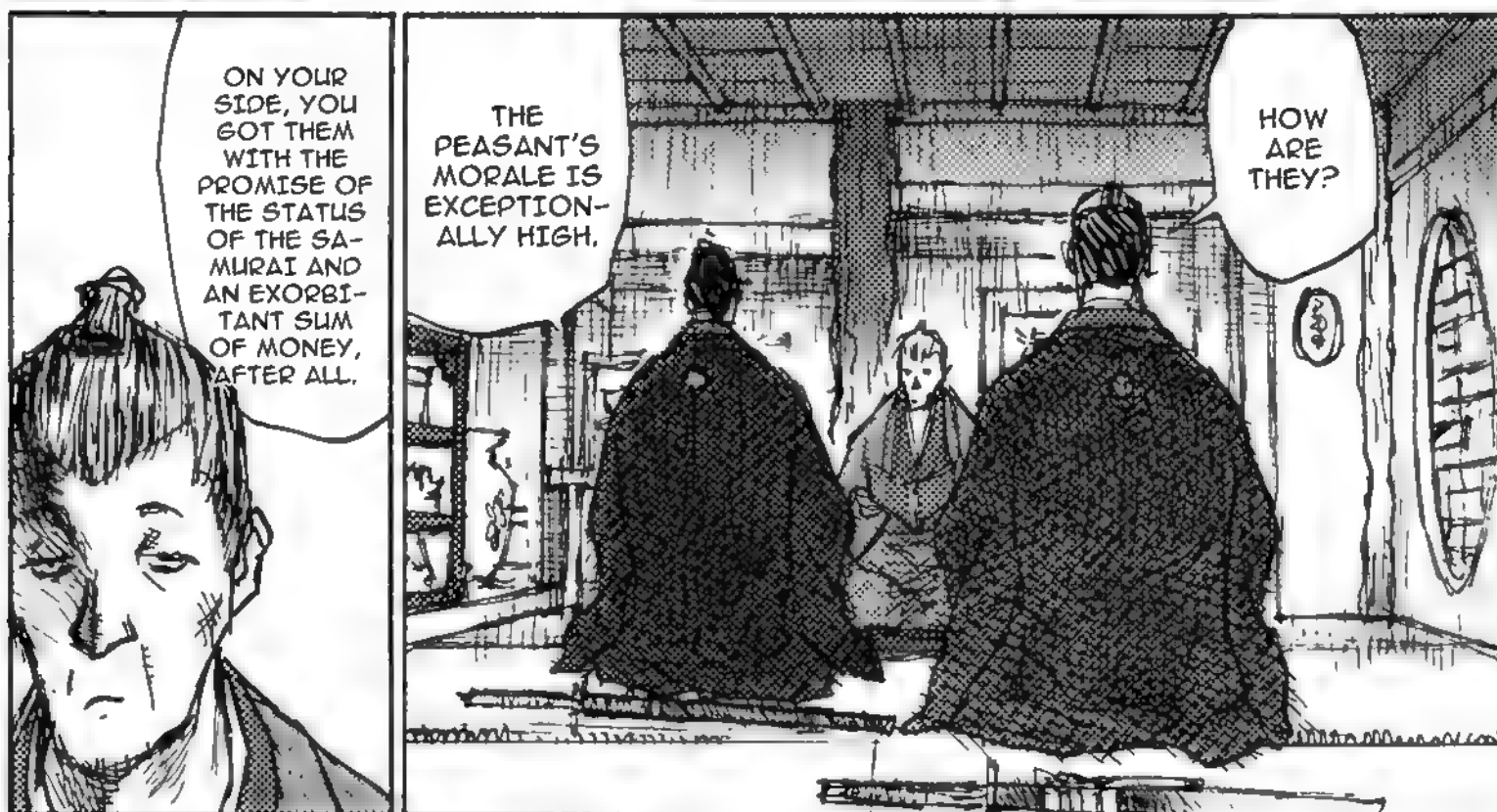
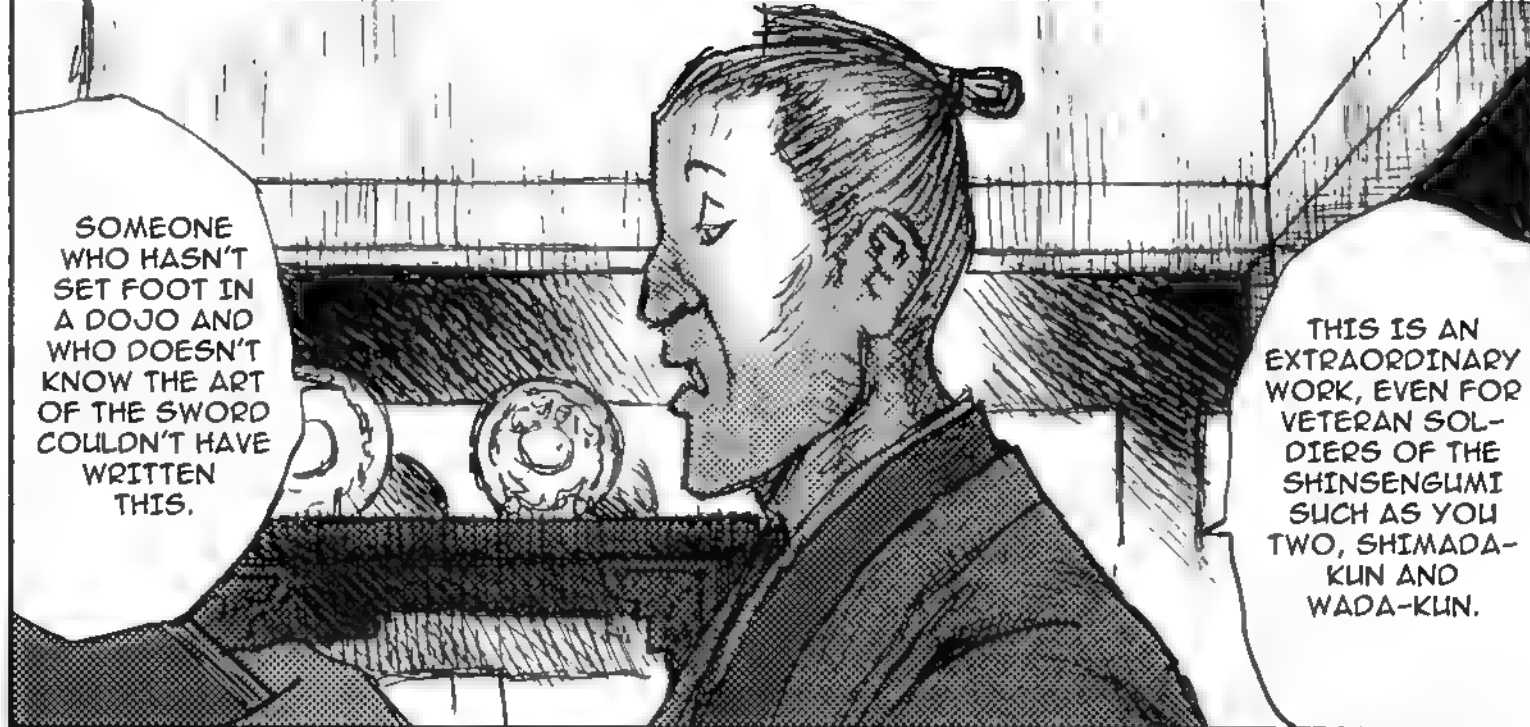
YES, I'VE
READ IT.

"SHORT
TERM
INTENSIVE
LETHAL
TRAINING
GUIDE-
LINE,"
HUH?



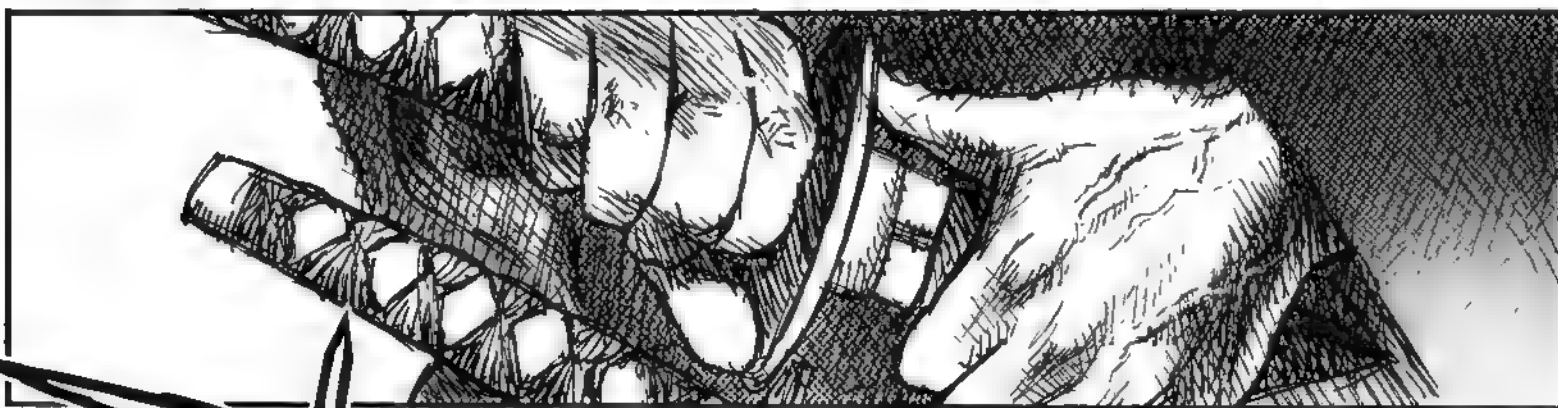
KATSU-SAMA,
AS YOU HAVE
REQUESTED,
THIS TRAINING
PROGRAM IS
GEARED TOWARDS
THEIR GROWTH
IN TWO
WEEKS.

IF THEY
PRACTICE
FOLLOWING
THIS GUIDELINE,
I'M POSITIVE
THAT EVEN THOSE
AMATEURS SHOULD
BE ABLE TO
FIGHT WITH
A SWORD.



DAY 1

FRONTAL SLASH WITH BOTH HANDS



ON ONE,
YOU GET IN
YOUR STANCE.
ON TWO, YOU
DRAW YOUR
SWORD AND
SHOUT.

THESE ARE
THE BASICS!
MAKE SURE
YOU UNDER-
STAND THEM
WELL.

GOTCHA.

USE YOUR
FISTS AS IF YOU'RE
WRINGING A CLOTH
TO HOLD THE GRIP.
THE HILT SHOULD BE
IN THE ANGLE THAT'S
AROUND THE CENTER
OF YOUR BODY AND
THE POINT OF THE
SWORD SHOULD BE
A LITTLE LOWER
THAN A HORI-
ZONTAL LINE.

MAKE A BIG STEP
FORWARD WITH YOUR
RIGHT FOOT AND THEN
KEEP YOUR WEIGHT
ON YOUR RIGHT LEG.
USE YOUR LEG WHEN
SLASHING AND NOT
YOUR CHEST.

SLOWLY!
BE CARE-
FUL WHILE
DRAWING
OUT YOUR
SWORD.

DRAW
YOUR
SWORD!

TWO!

SLASH!

ONE!

TAKE
STANCE!

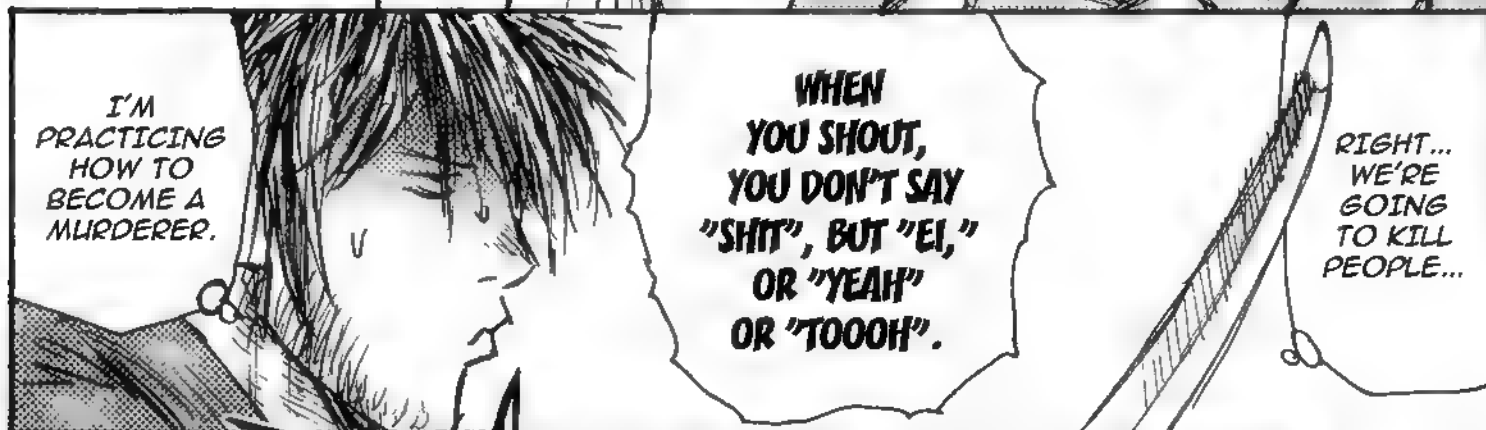


YOU
AREN'T
GOING TO
SLASH ANY-
ONE LIKE
THAT!

ALL
OF YOU!
YOUR BLADES
ARE WAVER-
ING!

FLUNG

HAUH!



I'M
PRACTICING
HOW TO
BECOME A
MURDERER.

WHEN
YOU SHOUT,
YOU DON'T SAY
"SHIT", BUT "EI,"
OR "YEAH"
OR "TOOOH".

RIGHT...
WE'RE
GOING
TO KILL
PEOPLE...



DERY
AAA!

TWO!



TWO!

ONE!

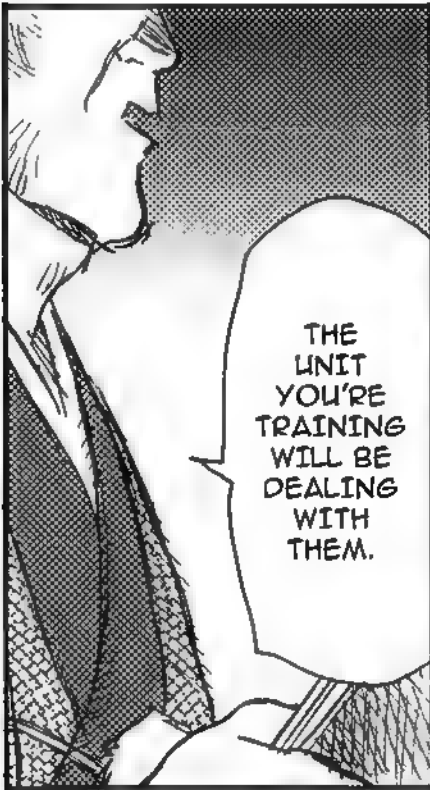
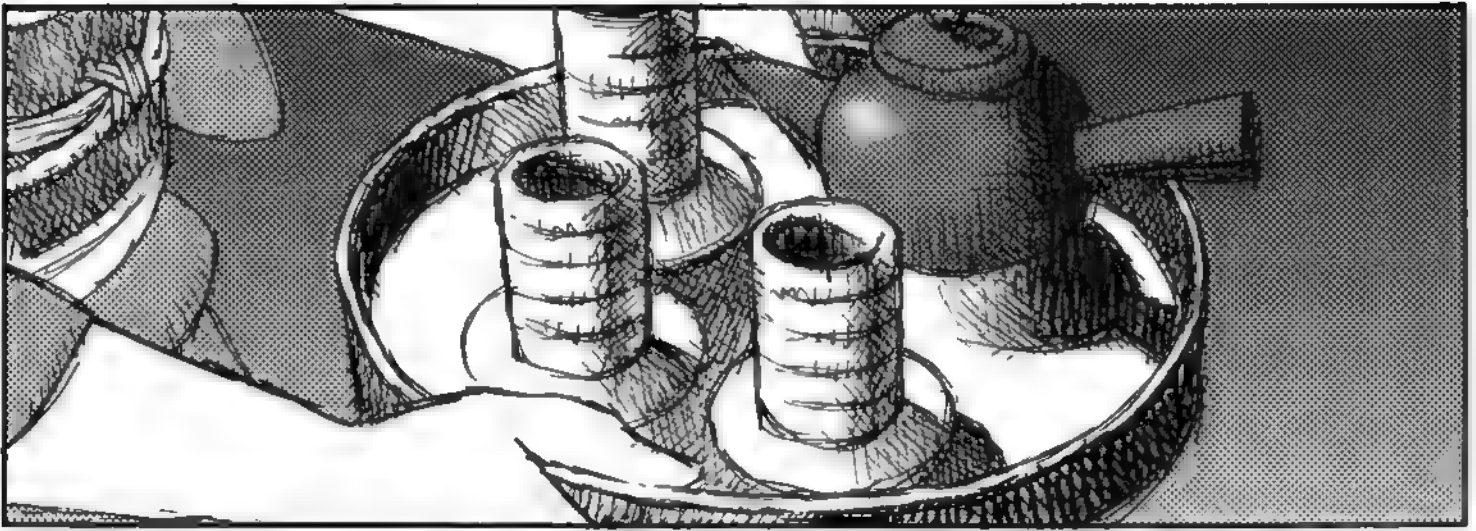
PUH!



YOUR
BLADE
WAVES
BECAUSE
YOU TRY TO
RUSH IT!

YOU SWING
THE SWORD
WITH YOUR
LOWER HALF
OF THE BODY
AND NOT WITH
YOUR ARM.

ONE
MORE
TIME.



THE
UNIT
YOU'RE
TRAINING
WILL BE
DEALING
WITH THEM.



IT'S
ASSUMED,
THAT SAT-
SUMA IS
BEHIND
THESE
ACTS.

THERE
HAS BEEN
FREQUENT
ROBBERIES,
ARSONS
AND RAN-
DOM KILL-
ING IN
THE CITY
OF EDO...



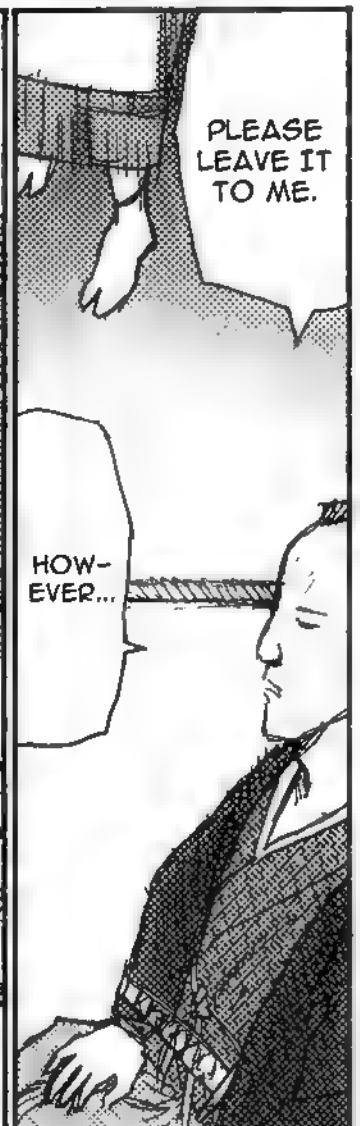
IS THERE
A REASON WHY
WE ARE GOING
THROUGH THE
TROUBLE OF TRAIN-
ING PEASANTS
FROM SCRATCH
FOR THIS?

WADA
AND I HAVE
PRACTICALLY
DESERTED OUR
ACTUAL UNITS
FOR THIS
PLAN.



IF YOU
HAVE A
QUESTION,
GO AHEAD.

YES?



PLEASE
LEAVE IT
TO ME.

HOW-
EVER...



AS I SAID
EARLIER,
IT'S JUST AN
ASSUMPTION
THAT SAT-
SUMA IS
BEHIND
THIS.

HAHA...
IT'S QUITE
SIMPLE
ACTUALLY.



WHY
ARE WE
DOING
THIS IN
SECRE-
CY?

I THINK WE
SHOULD SEND
THE PUNITIVE
CORPS LIKE
WE DO IN
THE CAPITAL
TO KILL
THEM ALL.



IN ORDER
TO CATCH
THEM, WE
CAN'T RISK
DOING THIS
PUBLICLY.



AFTER ALL,
WE HAVE TO
PROTECT OUR
HOUSE, TOO.
OUR MASTER
DOESN'T TRUST
US ENOUGH TO
LIVE NEARBY,
RIGHT?

IF WE
SEND THE
PUNITIVE
CORPS, PUBLIC
OPINION
WON'T BE
IN OUR
FAVOR.



YOU
SHOULD
GIVE IT
A TRY,
TOO.

IT'S
PLUM-KELP
TEA.

OH,
THIS IS
PRETTY
GOOD!



YOU'RE
ALWAYS
SO
THOUGHT-
FUL!

SHIZU-
CHAN,
THIS
TASTES
GREAT!



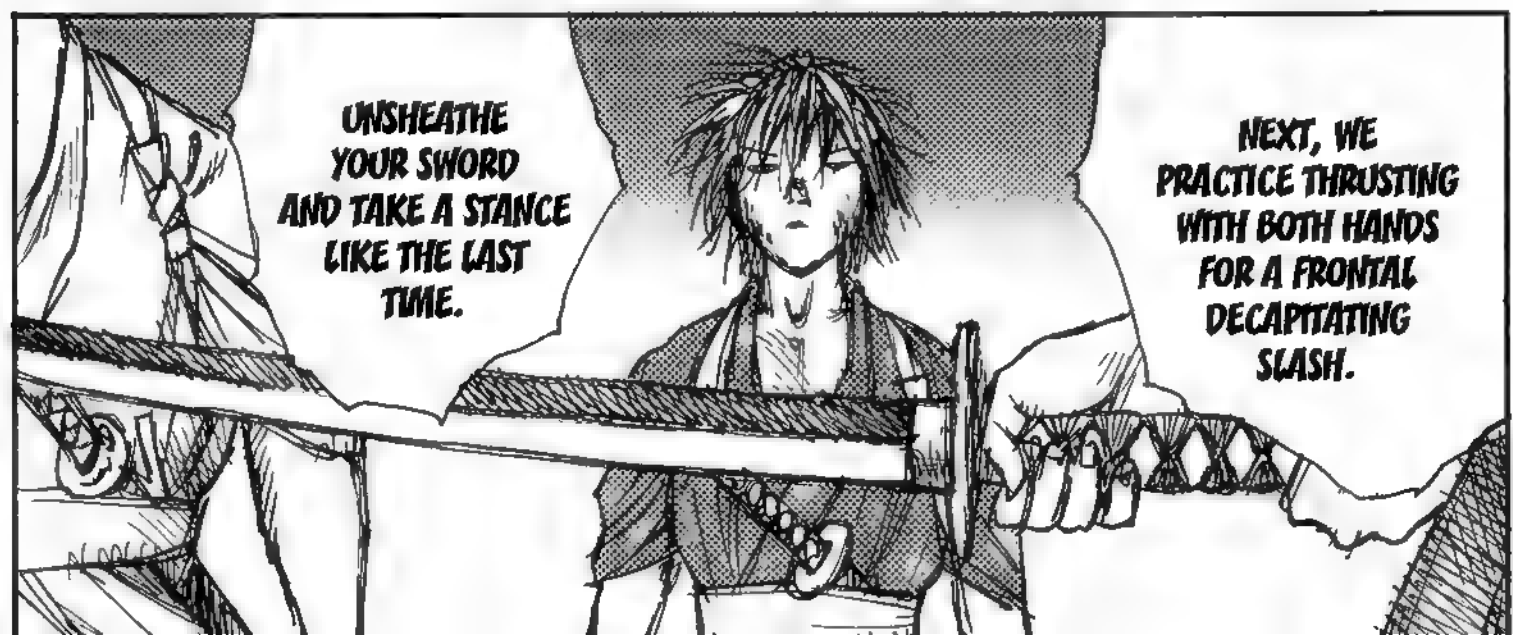
HERE.

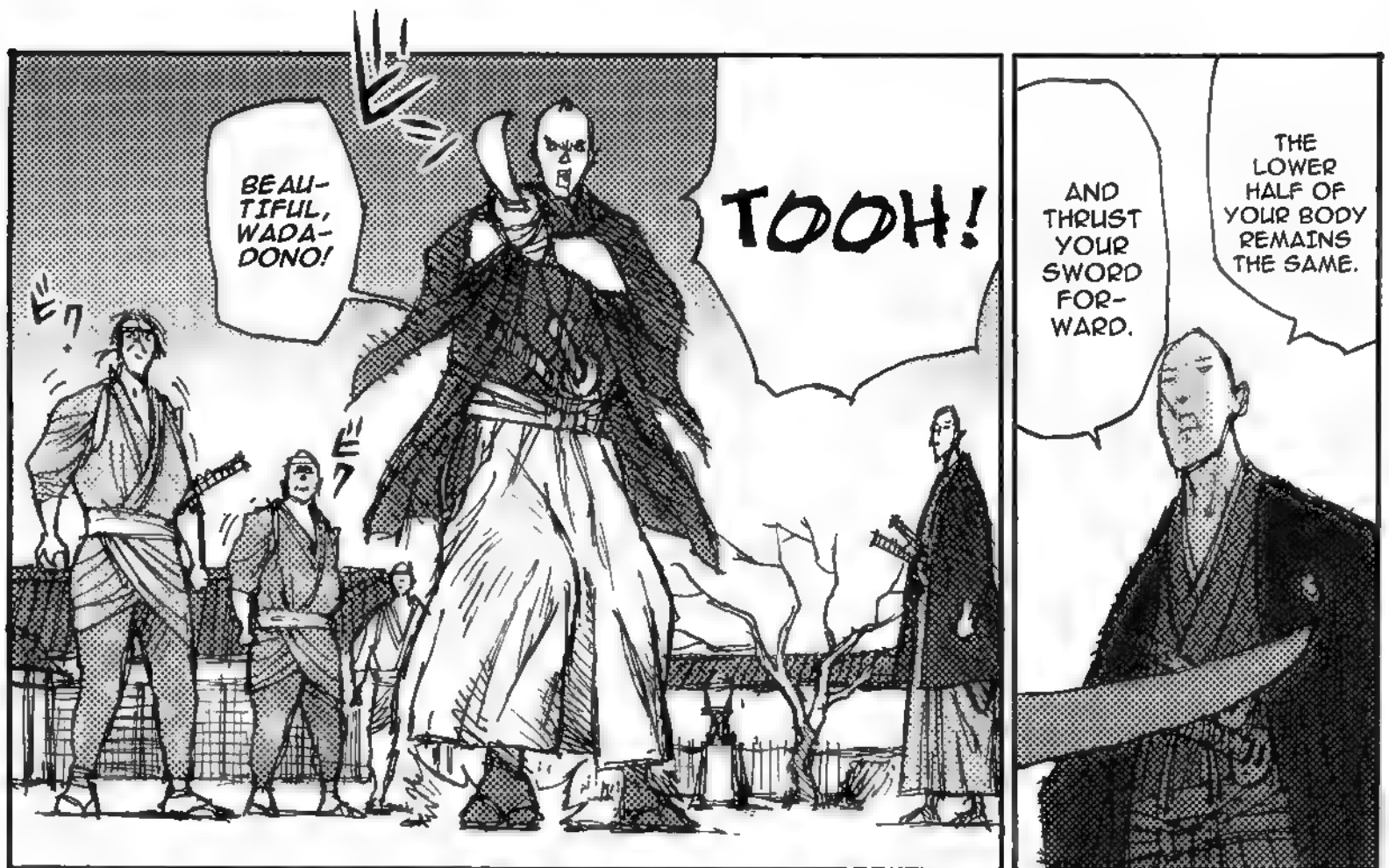
THANKS.



DAY TWO

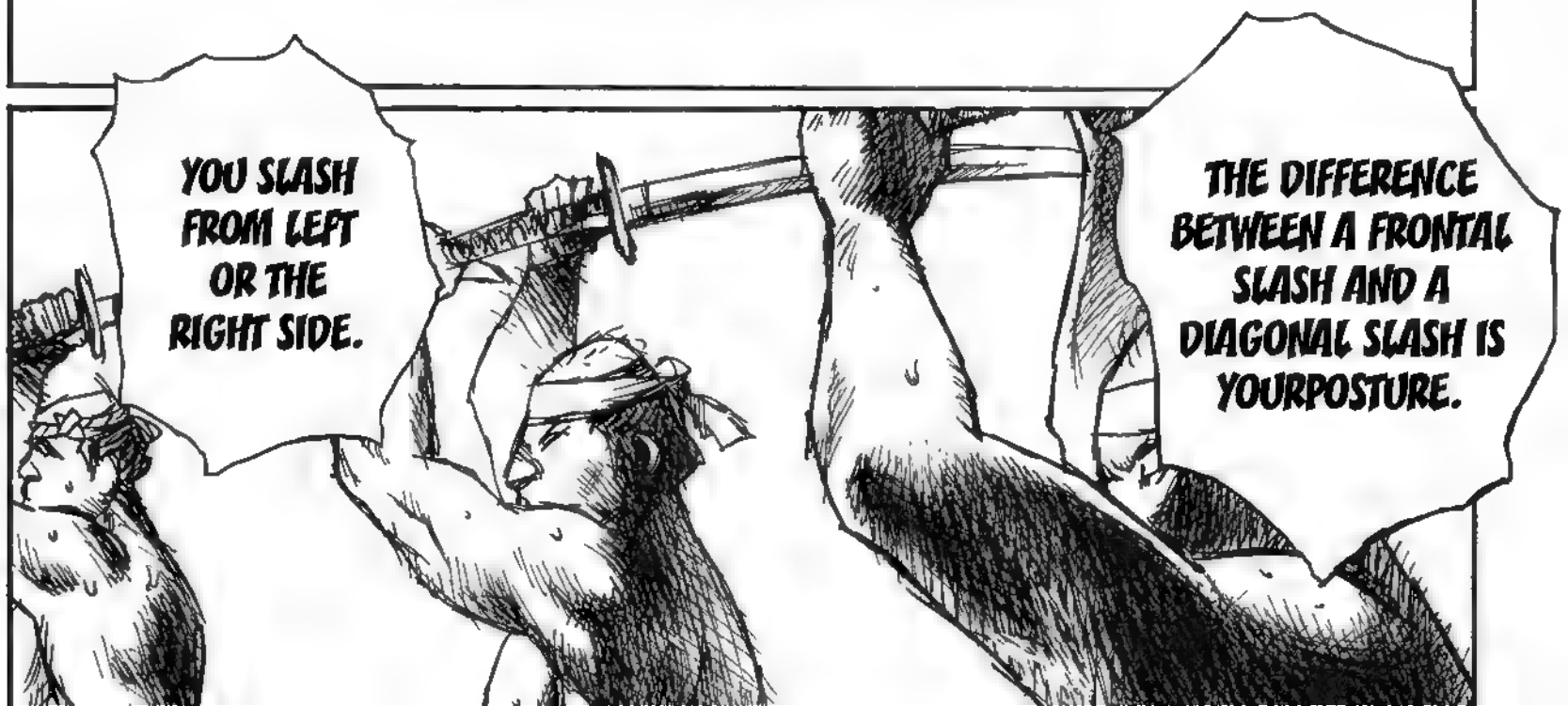
THRUSTING WITH BOTH HANDS

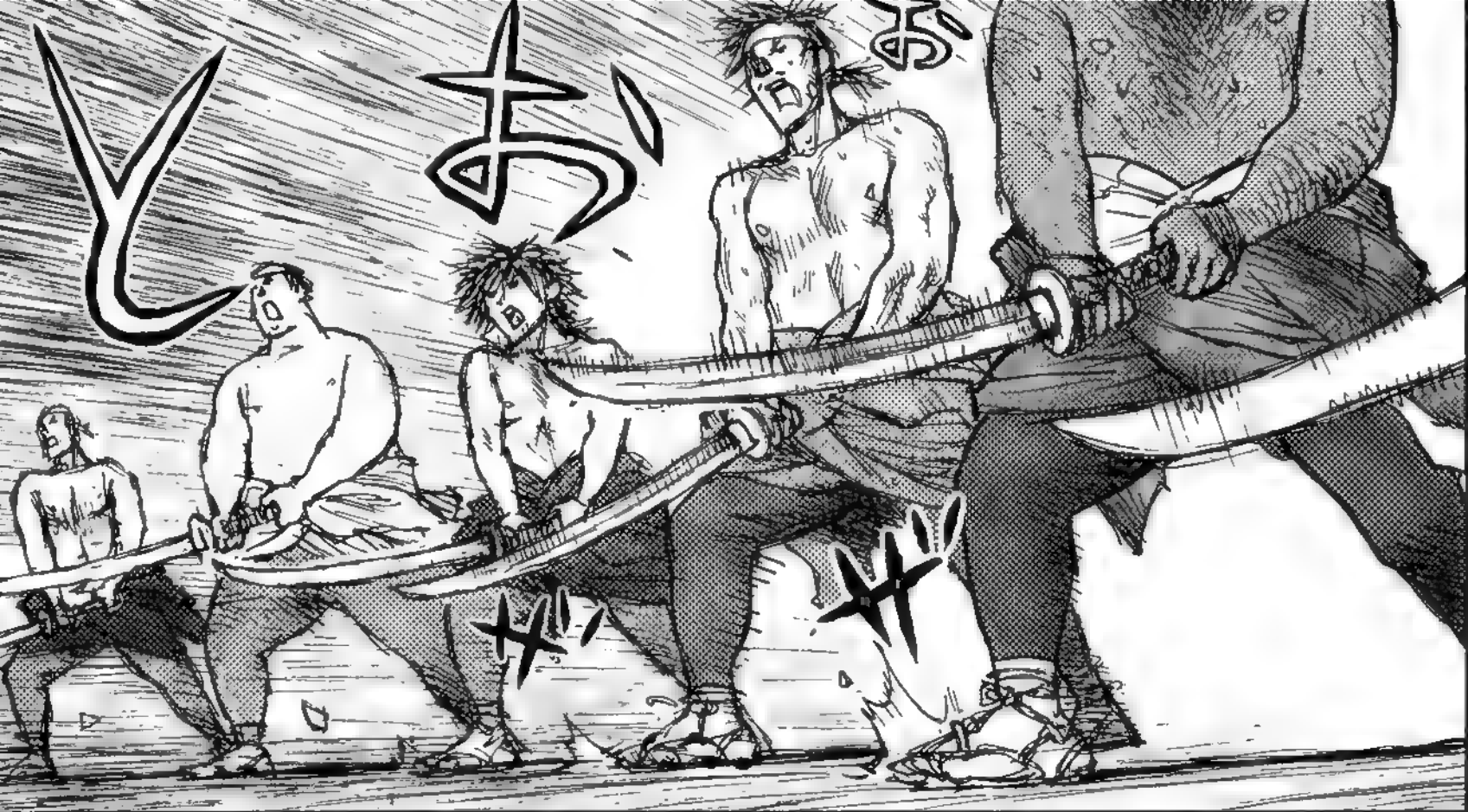




DAY 3

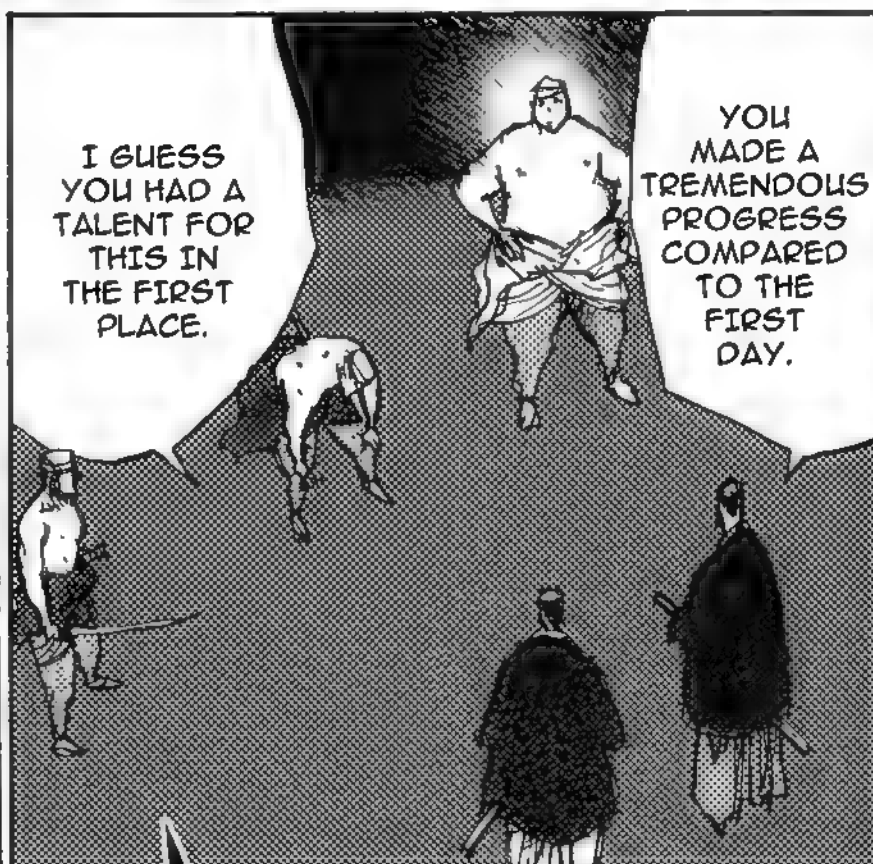
DIAGONAL SLASH WITH BOTH HANDS





THE THREE
MOVES I'VE
TAUGHT YOU
ARE ALL THE
OFFENSIVE
MOVES.

JUST
THOSE
THREE?



I GUESS
YOU HAD A
TALENT FOR
THIS IN
THE FIRST
PLACE.

YOU
MADE A
TREMENDOUS
PROGRESS
COMPARED
TO THE
FIRST
DAY.



MM.

NOT
BAD.



WE'LL
ARREST ALL
THE OUTLAWS
HANGING OUT
AT THE SATSUMA
RESIDENCE AND
GIVE THEM THE
APPROPRIATE
PUNISHMENT.



AT THIS
RATE, OUR
VALUE AS
SHOGUNATE
VASSALS
WILL DROP.

WE
CANNOT LET
THEM DO AS
THEY PLEASE
ANYMORE.



WE CAN
NO LONGER
WAIT FOR THEM
TO MAKE THE
FIRST MOVE
AND "LACK OF
EVIDENCE"
WON'T FLY
AS AN
EXCUSE.

KATSU-
DONO...



WE SHOULD
SIGNAL THAT
WE'RE READY TO
GO TO WAR.

WITH
SUCH A WEAK
DIPLOMATIC
APPROACH,
THEY WILL ONLY
BECOME MORE
ARROGANT.



WE
SHOULDN'T
JUMP THE
GUN.

BUT
OGURI-
DONO...
WE'RE STILL
INVESTIGATING...
WE SHOULD
WAIT A BIT
LONGER...

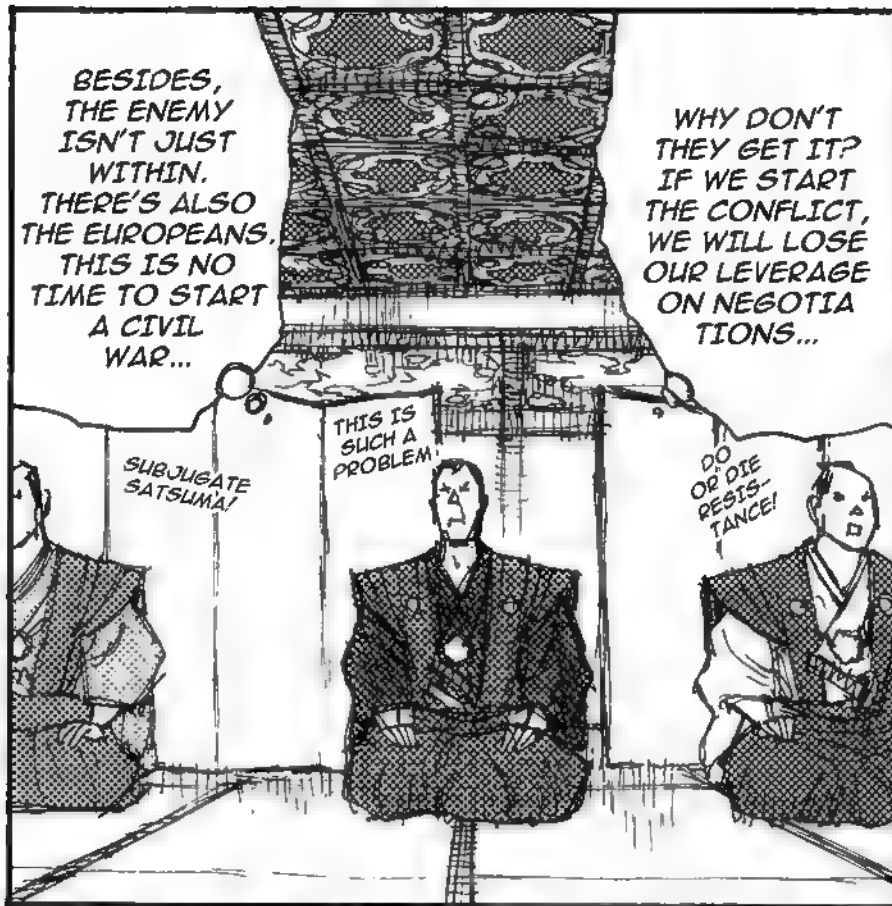
YOU'RE
TOO
SOFT!



EH?

AH,
YOU'RE
TALKING
TO ME?

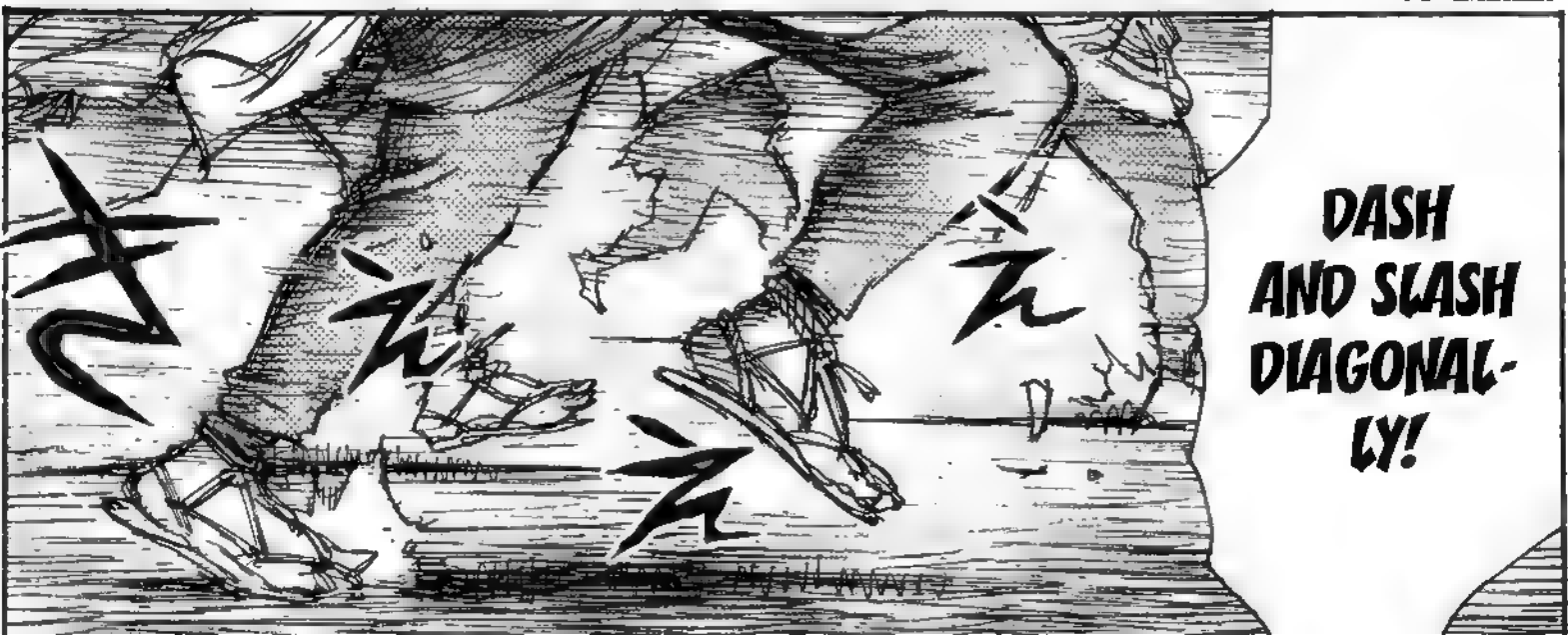
UHH...



DAY 4

TARGET PRACTICE

SLASHING WHILE DASHING AS WELL AS SLASHING ON THE SPOT

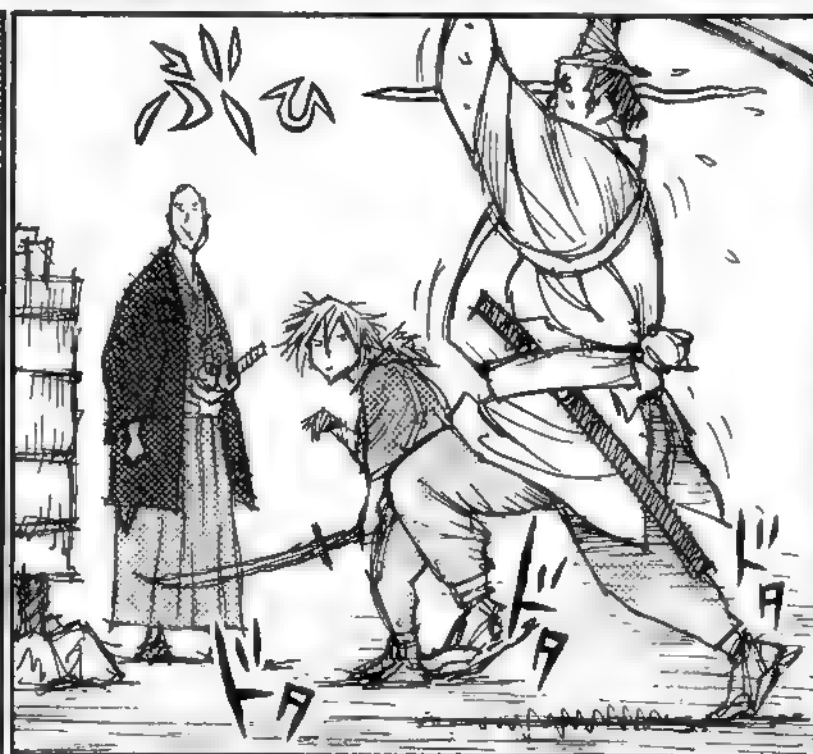


TRY
SLASHING
AFTER YOU
HAVE PULLED
UP YOUR
BLADE A
BIT MORE.

YOU'RE
TOO FAST,
USHIGOROU.

AYE.

TORY
AAAHH!

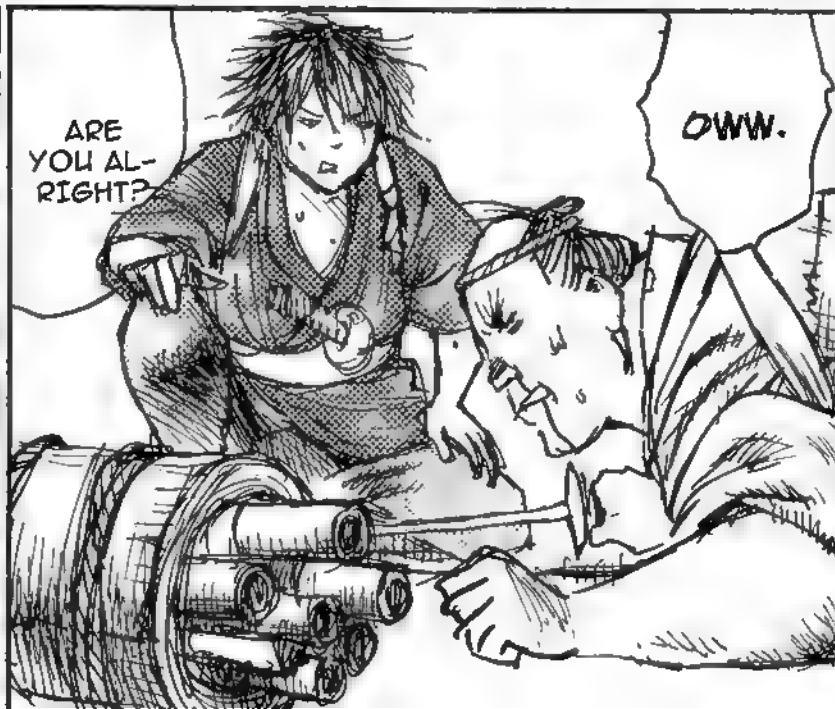


THE DISTANCE
SHOULD BE CLOSE
ENOUGH TO PUNCH
YOUR OPPONENT.
OTHERWISE YOU
CAN'T STRIKE
HIM DOWN IN A
SINGLE SLASH.



YEAH.

ARE
YOU AL-
RIGHT?



OWW.

YOKICHI,
REPLACE THE
TARGET.

AYE.





IT'S JUST
A BLADE.
WHEN IT'S
NOT USABLE,
JUST THROW
IT AWAY...



WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN A
SAMURAI'S
SOUL?

DAY 5

**PENETRATING THE TARGET SEVERAL
TIMES ON AN UNEVEN TERRAIN**

**PRACTICING COORDINATED ACTION,
PART ONE**



**YOU WILL
RUN AS FAST
AS YOU CAN
AND STRIKE
THE TARGETS
THAT ARE
SCATTERED
AROUND
HERE!**

**IT'S
RAINING!
WHICH MEANS,
IT'S THE PERFECT
WEATHER FOR
YOU TO USE
YOUR BLADES!**







... AND INJURED HIMSELF WITH HIS BLADE.

RIHACHI-SAN SUDDENLY TURNED...



LET ME SEE IT.

I... I'M FINE. THIS IS NOTHING.



HEE....

WHAT IS IT?



I SAID, I'M FINE. I CAN STILL GO ON.

IT'S OKAY. YOU'LL JUST SLOW US DOWN.



LET YOKICHI TAKE HIM TO A DOCTOR.

HE CUT HIMSELF DOWN TO THE BONE. WE CAN'T USE HIM.

EH...



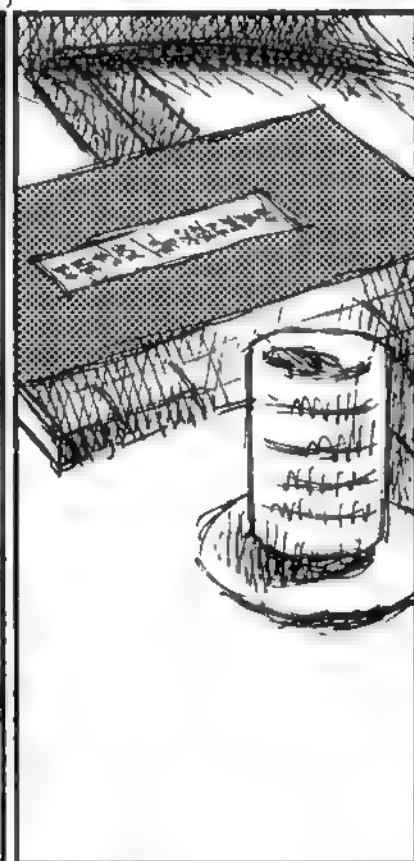
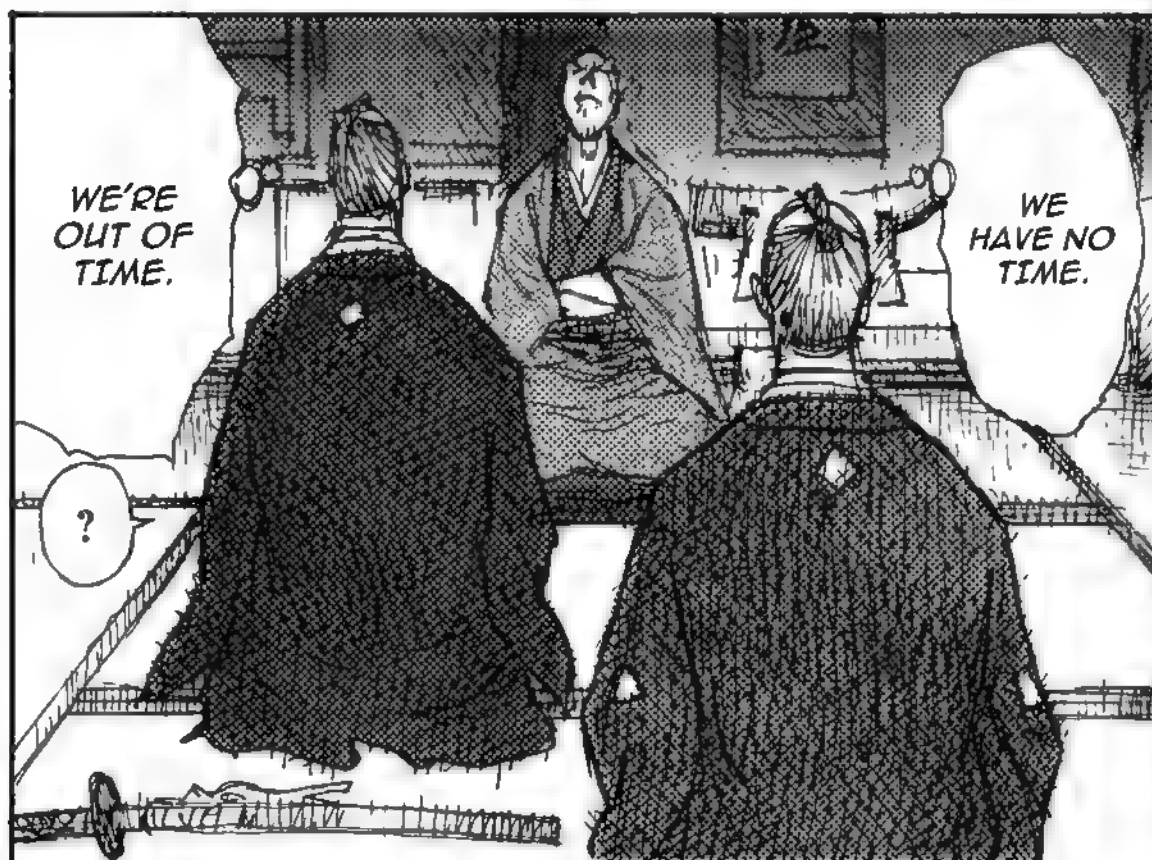
HOW IS IT, SHIMADA-DONO?

...



THANKS FOR YOUR HARD WORK.

WE'LL PAY YOU THE 3000 MON AND YOUR DAILY FEE.

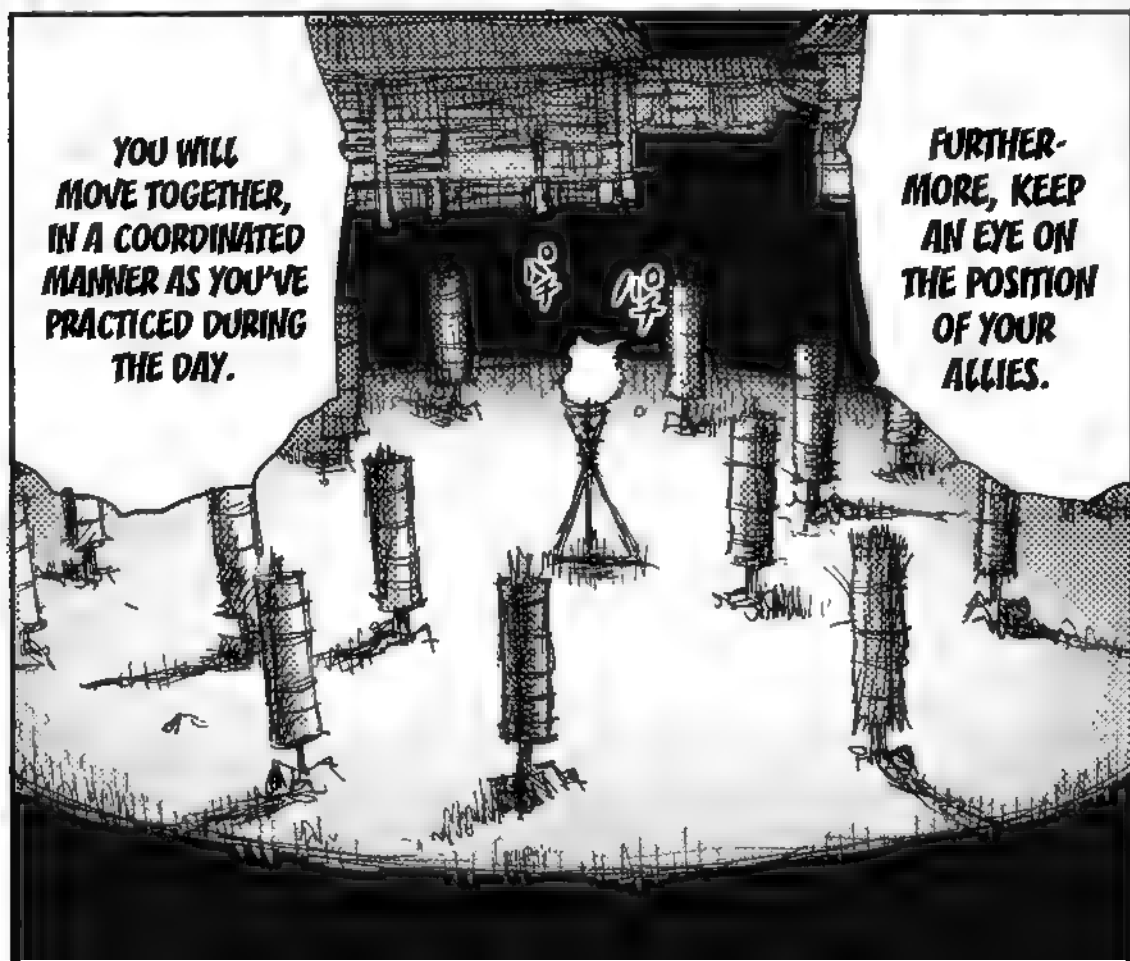




DAY 6

**PENETRATING THE TARGET SEVERAL TIMES
ON AN UNEVEN TERRAIN AT NIGHT**

**PRACTICING COORDINATED ACTION,
PART TWO**





**DRAW
YOUR
SWORDS!**

**GROUP RO,
FACE THE
RIGHT SIDE!**

**GROUP I,
FORWARD!**



**WAAAAAA
AAAAAAH!**

**GROUP I,
FORWARD!**



PR/N - BASED OFF A JAPANESE POEM. I-RO-HA ROUGHLY MEANS "ABC"



**GROUP RO,
FORWARD!**



YOU
ALONE WILL
RECEIVE
SPECIAL
TRAINING.

USHI-
GOROU.



I WANT
YOU TO
RUN AT ME
AND USE A
DIAGONAL
SLASH.

SO, I'LL
BE THE
TARGET.



I FIGURED
THAT YOU
DIDN'T GET
QUITE THE
RIGHT FEEL-
ING WHILE
ATTACKING
THE TARGET.

YOU SEEM
TO BE THE
ONLY ONE
WHO CAN'T
GET CLOSE
ENOUGH
WHILE
STRIKING.

THIS
MIGHT BE
HARD FOR
YOU, SINCE
YOU ARE
SHORT.



IF YOU
CAN'T DO IT,
YOU CAN
PACK YOUR
STUFF AND
GO.

OTHERWISE,
IT WON'T
SERVE AS
PRACTICE.



COME
AT ME
WITH THE
INTENT
OF KILL-
ING.

DON'T
HOLD
BACK.



EH...
BUT...

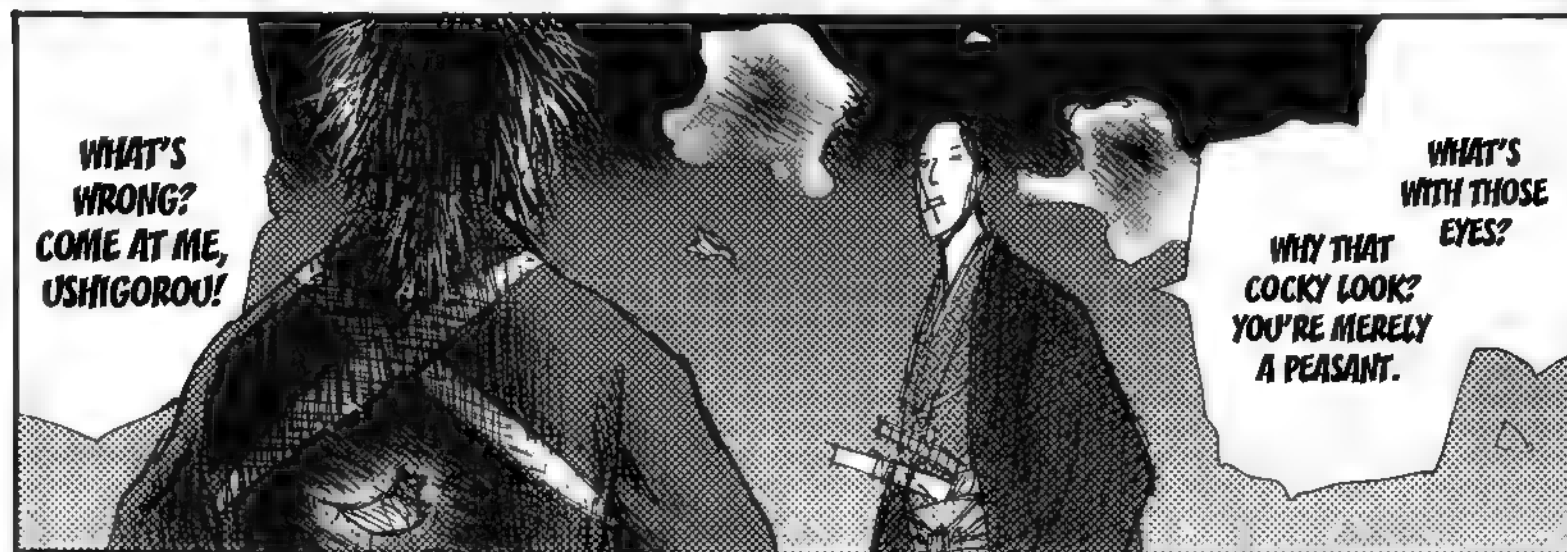


WHAT?



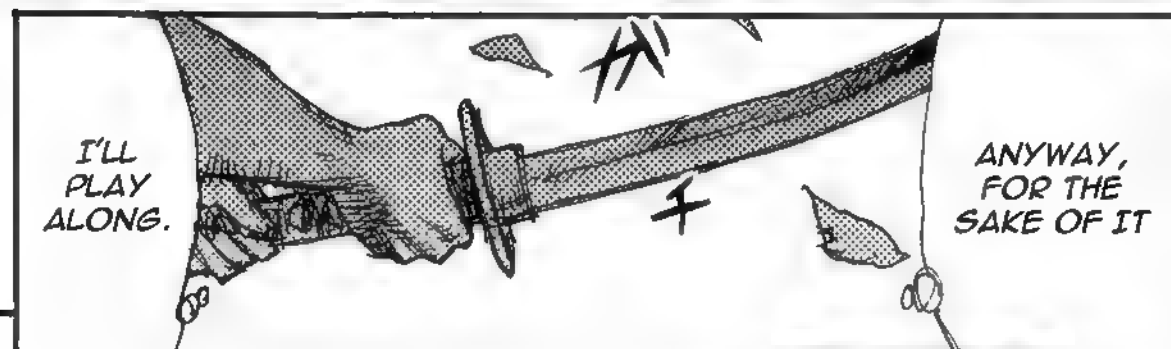
EVEN
WITH A
SWORD
IN YOUR
HAND,
YOU CAN'T
BEAT A
SAMURAI.
YOU'RE
JUST A
COWARD.

IN
THE END,
YOU'RE
JUST A
PEASANT.



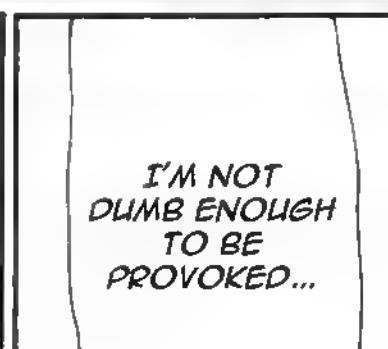
WHAT'S
WRONG?
COME AT ME,
USHIGOROU!

WHAT'S
WITH THOSE
EYES?
WHY THAT
COCKY LOOK?
YOU'RE MERELY
A PEASANT.



I'LL
PLAY
ALONG.

ANYWAY,
FOR THE
SAKE OF IT

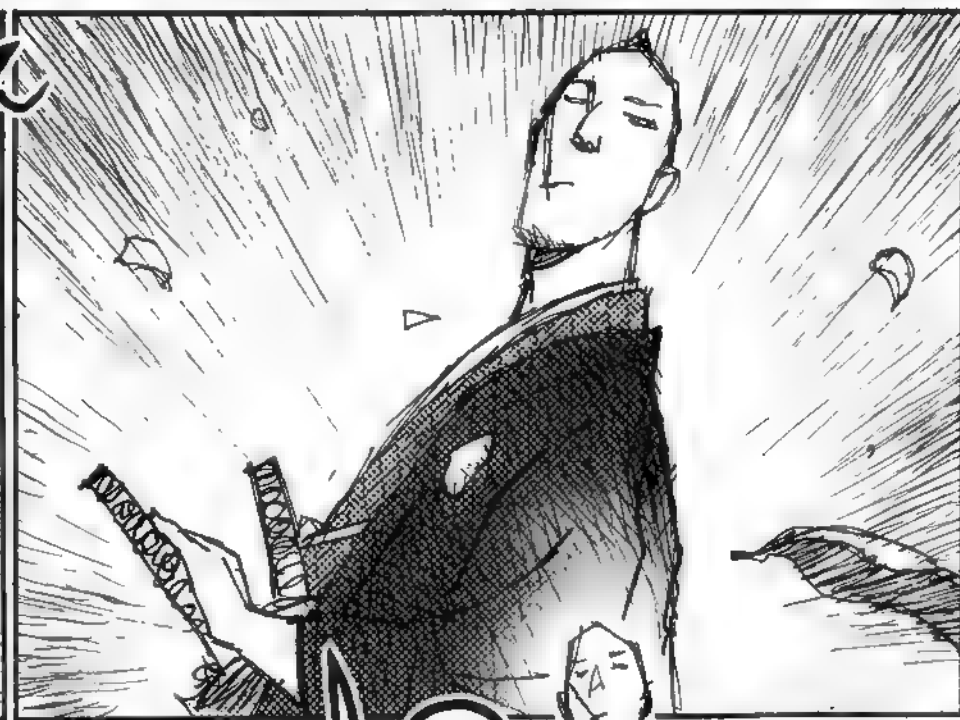


I'M NOT
DUMB ENOUGH
TO BE
PROVOKED...



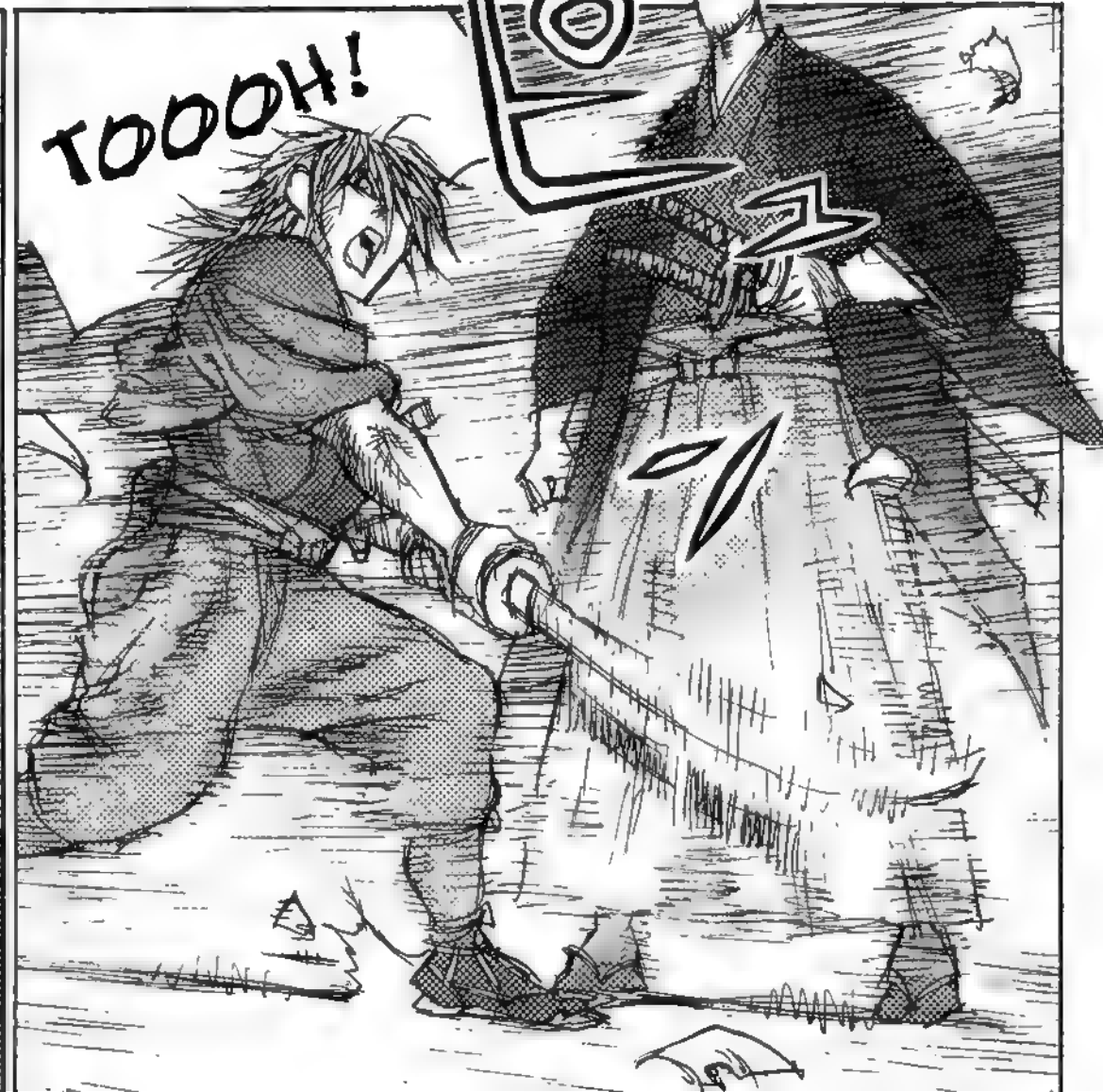
*BREATH
IN*



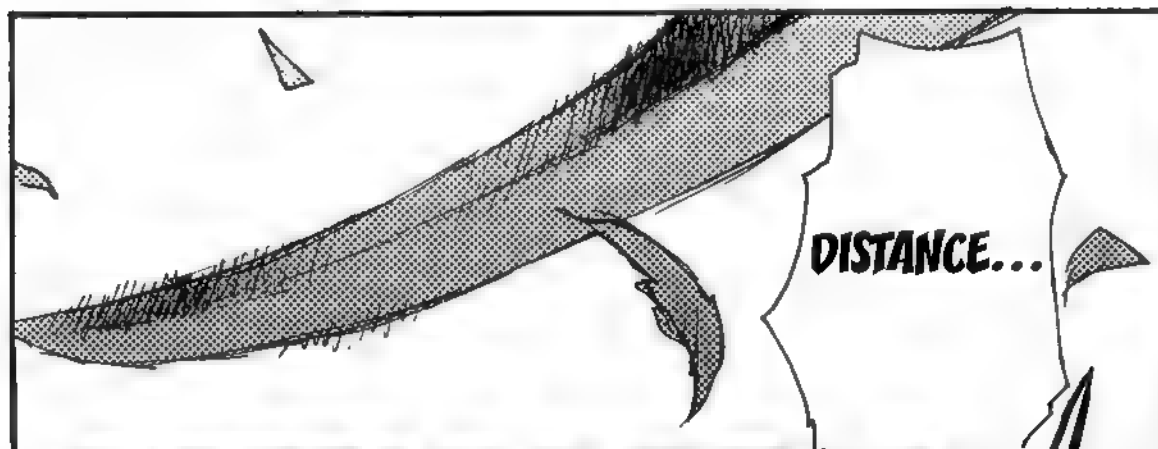


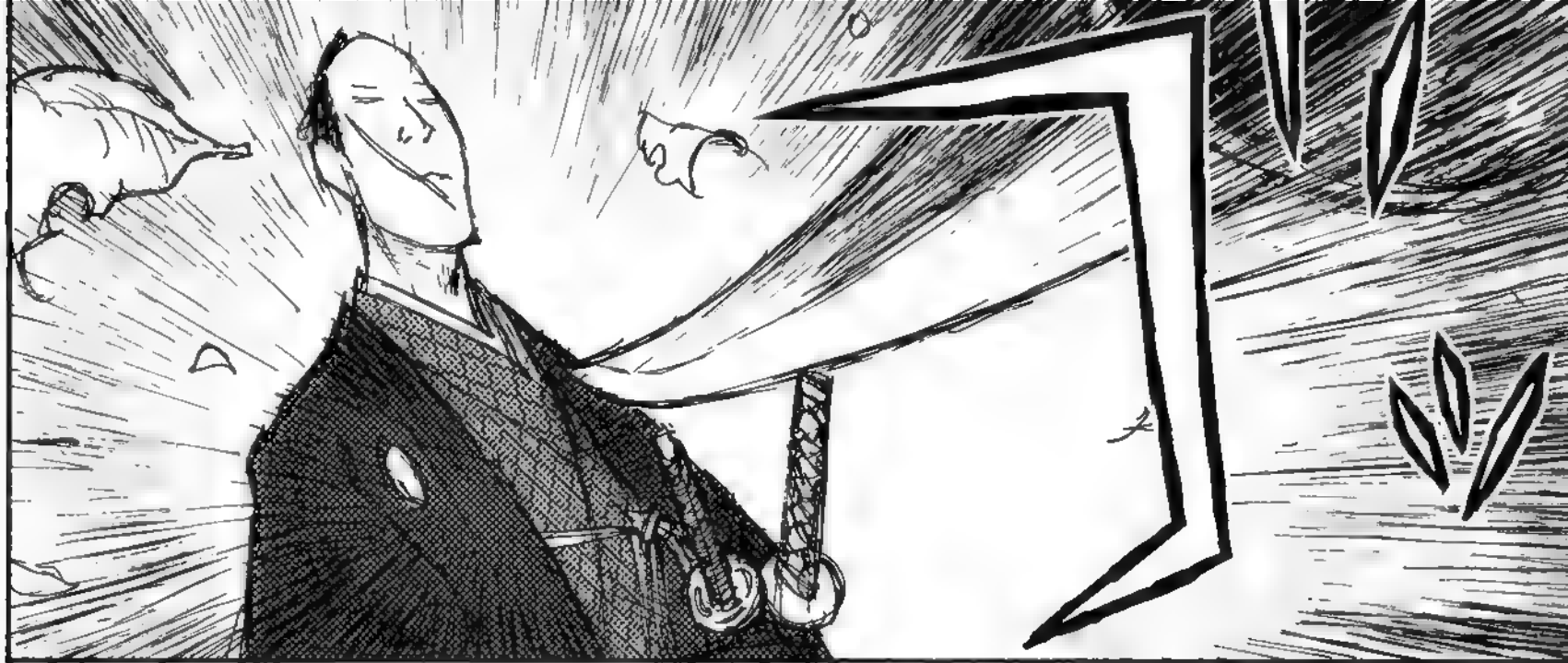
IF YOUR
OPPONENT IS
SMART, HE'LL
QUICKLY SEE
THROUGH
YOU!

ONE
MORE
TIME!



TOOOH!









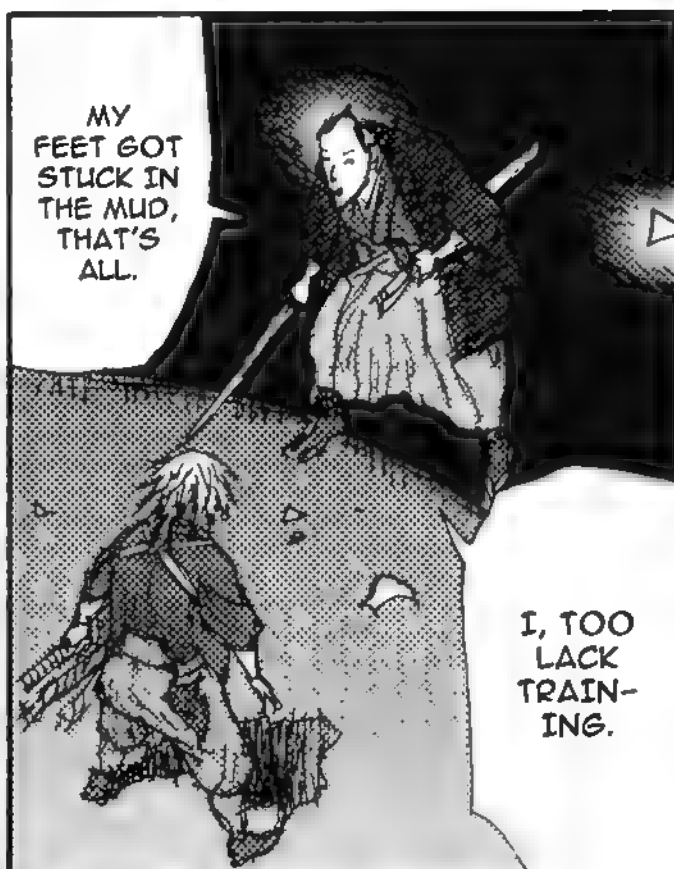
YOU CAN RETURN.

YOUR INDIVIDUAL TRAINING IS OVER, USHI-GOROU.



IT WAS PRETTY GOOD.

DON'T FORGET THAT CHARGE.



MY FEET GOT STUCK IN THE MUD, THAT'S ALL.

I, TOO LACK TRAINING.



WHAT A STRONG SWING...

TO THINK HE MADE SHIMADA-DONO DRAW HIS SWORD AND STILL MADE HIM LOSE HIS BALANCE...



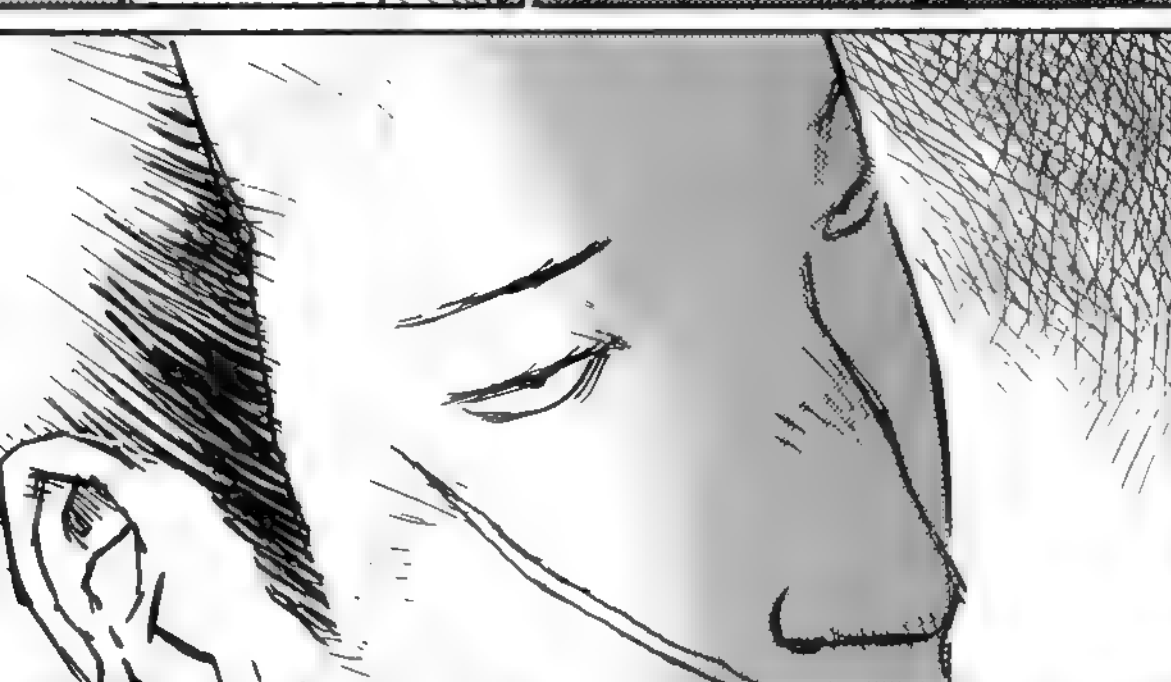
WHY WOULD HE GO AS FAR AS RISKING HIS OWN LIFE?

SHIMADA-SAN USED HIS OWN BODY TO TEACH ME.



IN OTHER WORDS, THEIR PRACTICE OUGHT TO BE COMPLETED WITHIN TWO WEEKS.

IN THIS GUIDELINE, ALL TEN COURSES WILL BE COMPLETED IN TEN DAYS, AND THEN FIVE DAYS FOR PRACTICE AS A GROUP.





CAN YOU
SHORTEN
IT DOWN TO
SIX DAYS?

SORRY
BUT



WHAT?



CUT IT
DOWN
TO TWO
DAYS.

THEY
ALSO DON'T
NEED FIVE
DAYS FOR
COORDI-
NATED
ACTION.

SCRAP
THAT.
THEY DON'T
NEED
IT.

YEAH.

ABOUT
"DEFENSE
AND COUNTER-
ATTACK" ON
THE SECOND
HALF...



YES,
WHY?

ARE YOU
SERIOUS?

YES?
WHAT
IS IT?

KATSU-
SAMA.

LET'S
SEE...

IS
THERE
ANYTHING
ELSE
WE CAN
SCRAP...


KATSU-
SAMA.



**NO WORRIES
THERE. I'M
THINKING ABOUT
NOT KEEPING
THEM FOR
THAT LONG.**


I'M
AFRAID IT
WILL HURT
THE SQUAD
ENORMOUS-
LY...

IT'S
RECKLESS
TO SEND
THEM INTO
COMBAT
WITHOUT
ANY UNDER-
STANDING
OF DE-
FENSE...



IF I MAY
SPEAK...

YES,
GO
AHEAD.



GETTING
THE SQUAD
READY FOR
COMBAT AS
SOON AS
POSSIBLE.

PAT

RIGHT
NOW, OUR
UTMOST
PRIORITY
IS



AS LONG
AS THEY
LAST THAT
LONG, IT'S
ALL GOOD.

THE IDEA
IS TO SCARE
SATSUMA SO
THEY CHANGE
THEIR ATTIT-
TUDE.

GET
IT DONE
IN SIX
DAYS.

ANYWAY,
I'LL LEAVE
THE MATTER
IN YOUR
HANDS.



**YOU
DON'T GET
TO COMPLAIN
ABOUT IT!**

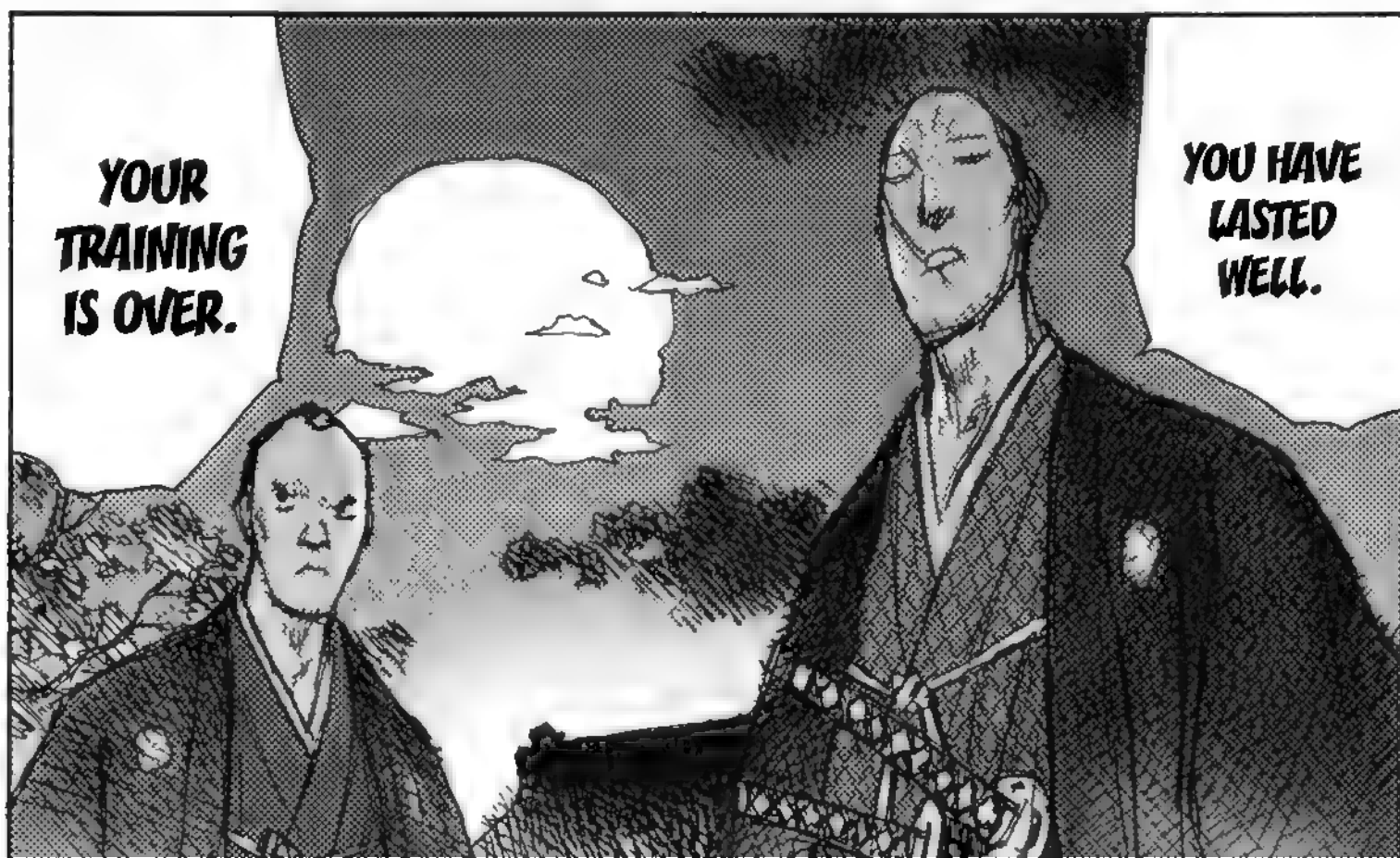
BUT
KATSU-
SAMA...



**GET IT
DONE.**

**SIX
DAYS.**

END OF THE TRAINING AND THE FOUNDING OF THE SQUAD.



**YOUR
TRAINING
IS OVER.**

**YOU HAVE
LASTED
WELL.**



IT WAS NOTHING COMPARED TO FIELD WORK.

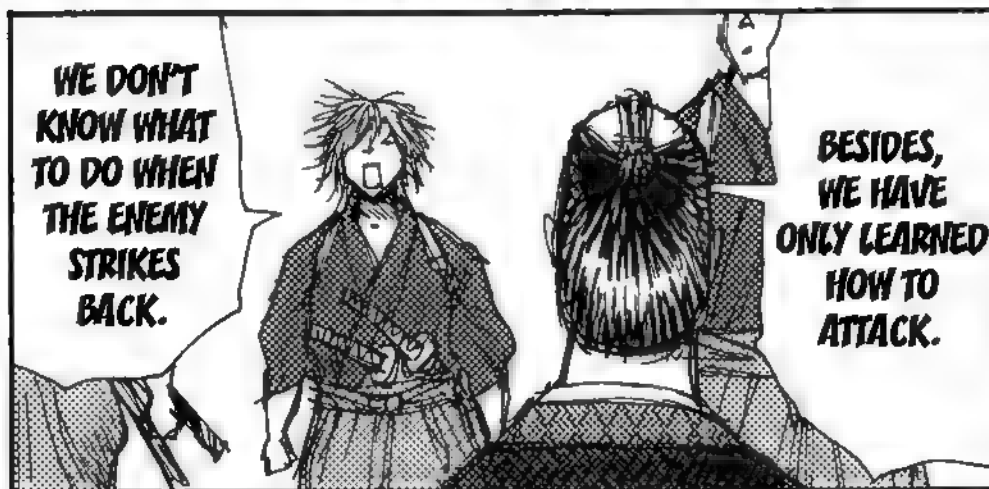
IT WAS A PIECE OF CAKE.

HE SAID IT'S OVER.



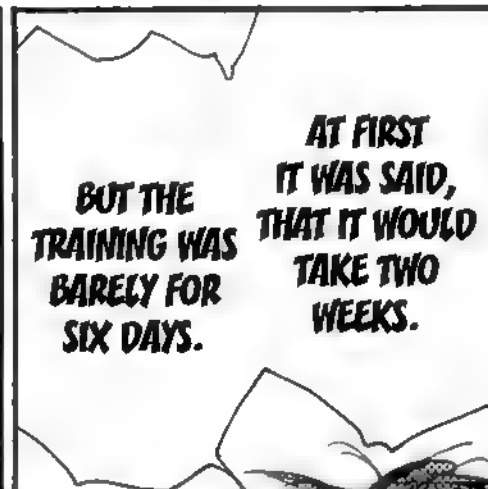
WHAT IS IT, USHI-GOROH?

SHIMADA-SAMA, MAY I ASK SOMETHING?

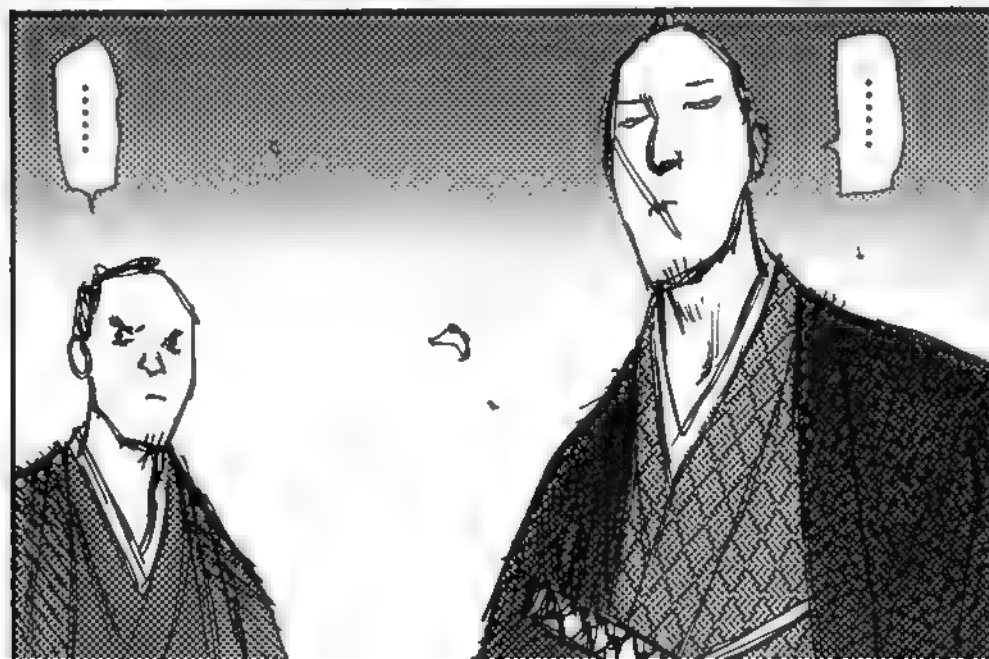


WE DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WHEN THE ENEMY STRIKES BACK.

BESIDES, WE HAVE ONLY LEARNED HOW TO ATTACK.



AT FIRST IT WAS SAID, THAT IT WOULD TAKE TWO WEEKS. BUT THE TRAINING WAS BARELY FOR SIX DAYS.



OH RIGHT ...



**NO NEED
TO WORRY.**



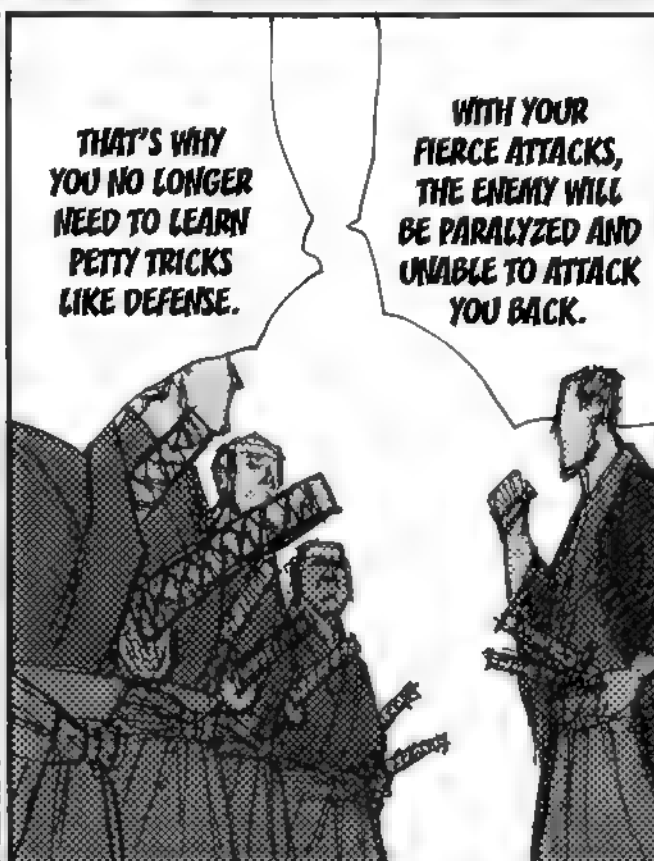
OH
YEAH...

HOW
DO WE
DODGE THE
ENEMY'S
BLADE?

YEAH...
NOW THAT
HE MEN-
TIONED
IT...

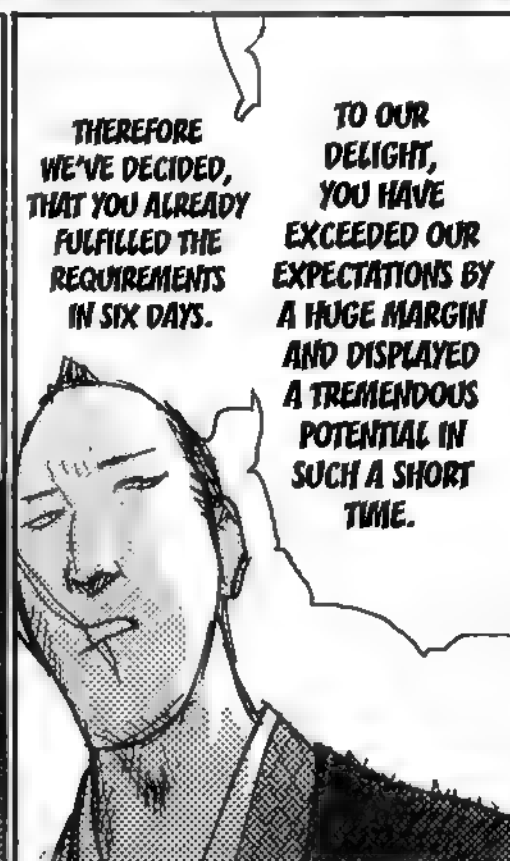


**I'M CONVINCED,
THAT YOUR SWORD
SKILLS HAVE RIPPENED
TO BE PUT INTO
REAL COMBAT.**



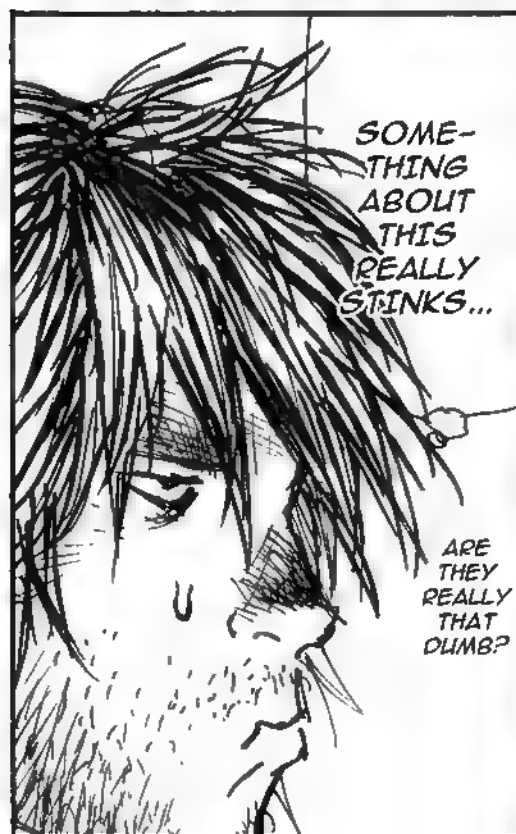
**THAT'S WHY
YOU NO LONGER
NEED TO LEARN
PETTY TRICKS
LIKE DEFENSE.**

**WITH YOUR
FIERCE ATTACKS,
THE ENEMY WILL
BE PARALYZED AND
UNABLE TO ATTACK
YOU BACK.**



**THEREFORE
WE'VE DECIDED,
THAT YOU ALREADY
FULFILLED THE
REQUIREMENTS
IN SIX DAYS.**

**TO OUR
DELIGHT,
YOU HAVE
EXCEEDED OUR
EXPECTATIONS BY
A HUGE MARGIN
AND DISPLAYED
A TREMENDOUS
POTENTIAL IN
SUCH A SHORT
TIME.**



**SOME-
THING
ABOUT
THIS
REALLY
STINKS...**

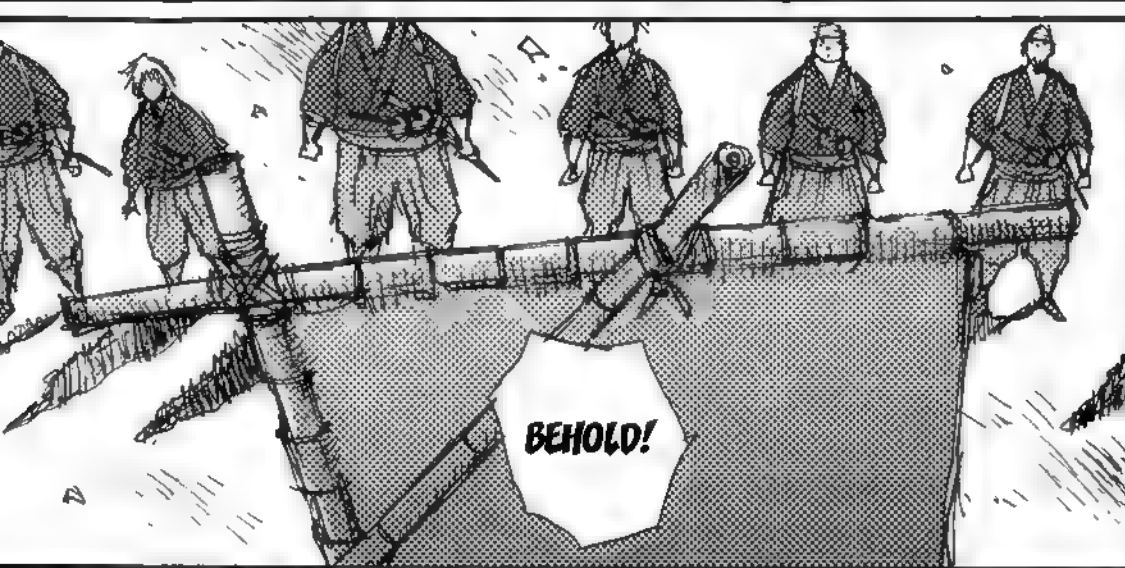
**ARE
THEY
REALLY
THAT
DUMB?**



I SEE!

**DOES THAT
MEAN THAT
WE'RE PRETTY
GOOD?**

**I SEE!
WE KILL
THEM IN
A SINGLE
BLOW!**



BEHOLD!

YOKICHI!

AYE.

THIS IS
THE BANNER
OF OUR
SQUAD!

HEREBY I
ANNOUNCE THE
ESTABLISHMENT
OF THE ONE-STRIKE,
ONE-KILL
SQUAD!



DUNNO.

HOW
DO YOU
READ
THAT?

ONE...
WHAT DID
HE SAY
AGAIN?

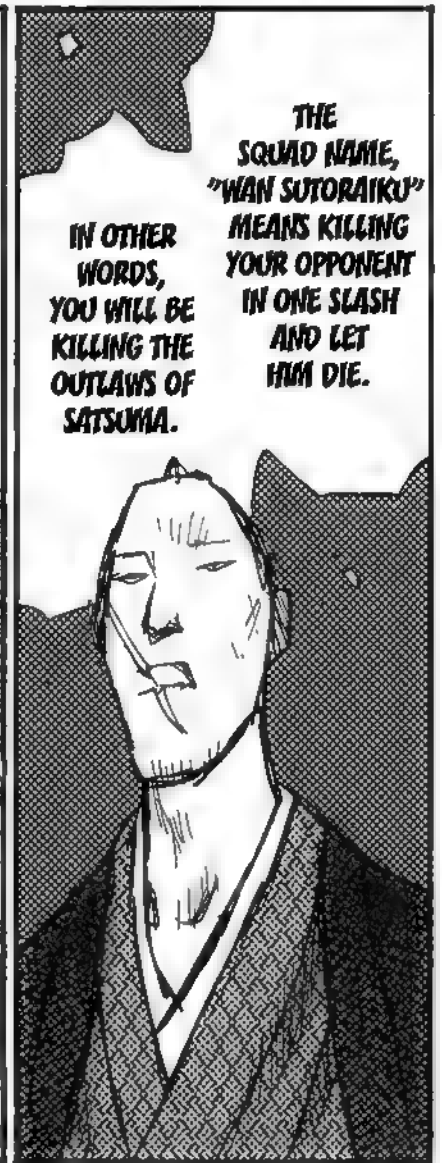


**AS OF TODAY,
YOU'RE SOLDIERS
NOW AND NOT
PEASANTS.**



**UNDER
THIS BANNER
YOU WILL BE
A UNIT AND
RISK YOUR
LIVES.**

**BE PROUD
FOR SERVING
AS SOLDIERS OF
THE ONE-STRIKE,
ONE-KILL
SQUAD!**



**THE
SQUAD NAME,
"WAN SUTORAIKU"
MEANS KILLING
YOUR OPPONENT
IN ONE SLASH
AND LET
HIM DIE.

IN OTHER
WORDS,
YOU WILL BE
KILLING THE
OUTLAWS OF
SATSUMA.**



**YOU'RE
NOW A
SAMURAI.**

CHAPTER 4 FIRST BATTLE





UNDER
THIS BANNER
YOU WILL BE A
UNIT AND UNDER
THIS BANNER YOU
WILL PLEDGE
YOUR LOYALTY.

I'LL
SAY IT
AGAIN.

BUT
SAMURAI.

AS LONG AS
YOU'RE SOLDIERS
OF THIS UNIT,
YOU'RE NO LONGER
PEASANTS,



WE'VE
FINALLY
BECOME
SAMURAI...

SAMURAI...



NOW WE
DON'T HAVE
TO PAY THAT
MASSIVE TAX,
EITHER.

ALRIGHT.



WITH
THIS

I CAN
FINAL-
LY FILL
MY
BELLY.



GUUUH...

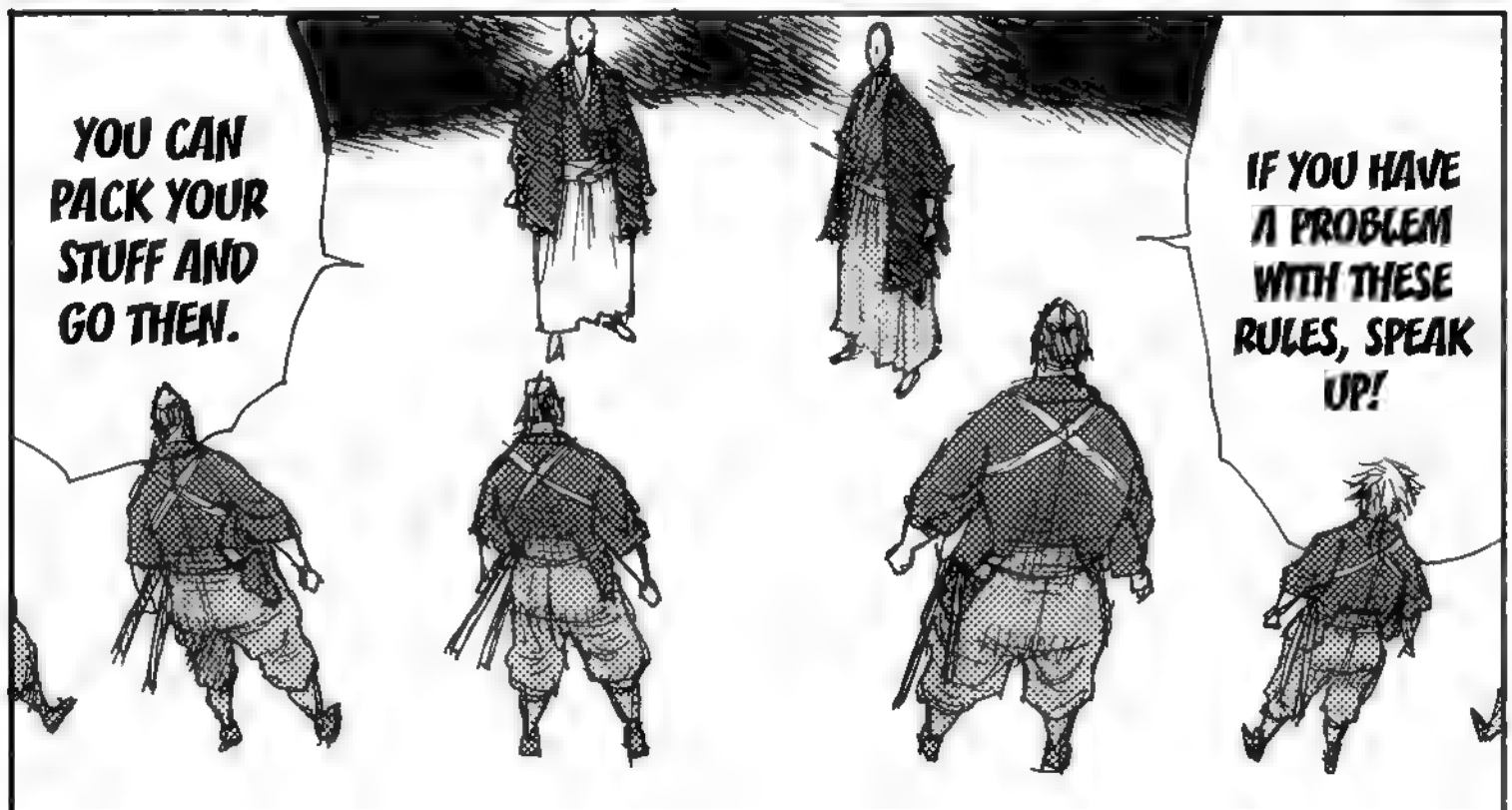


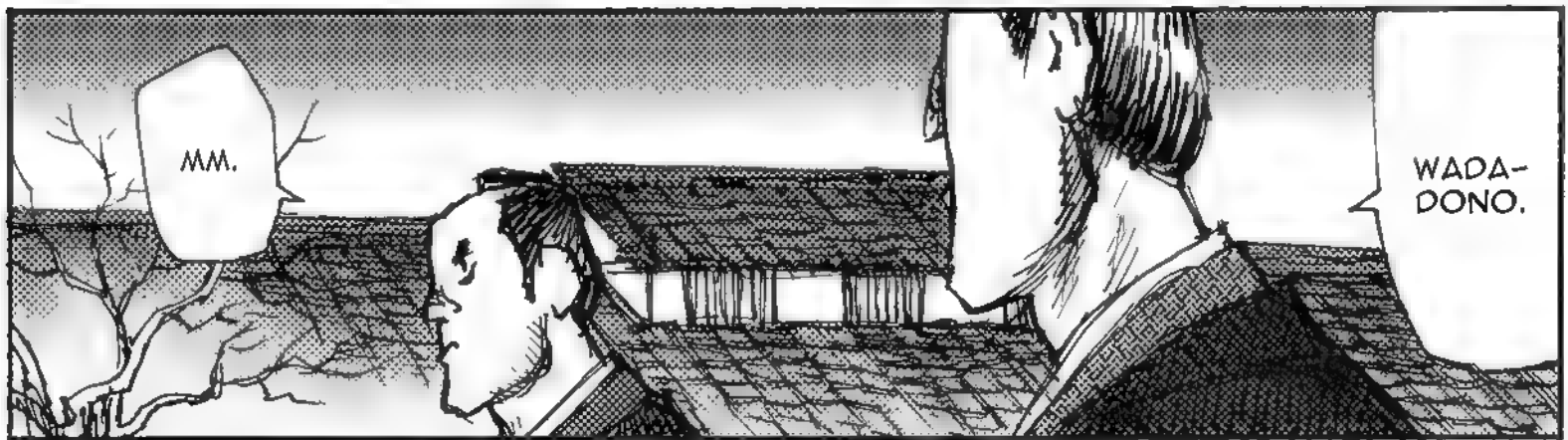
HEHE...

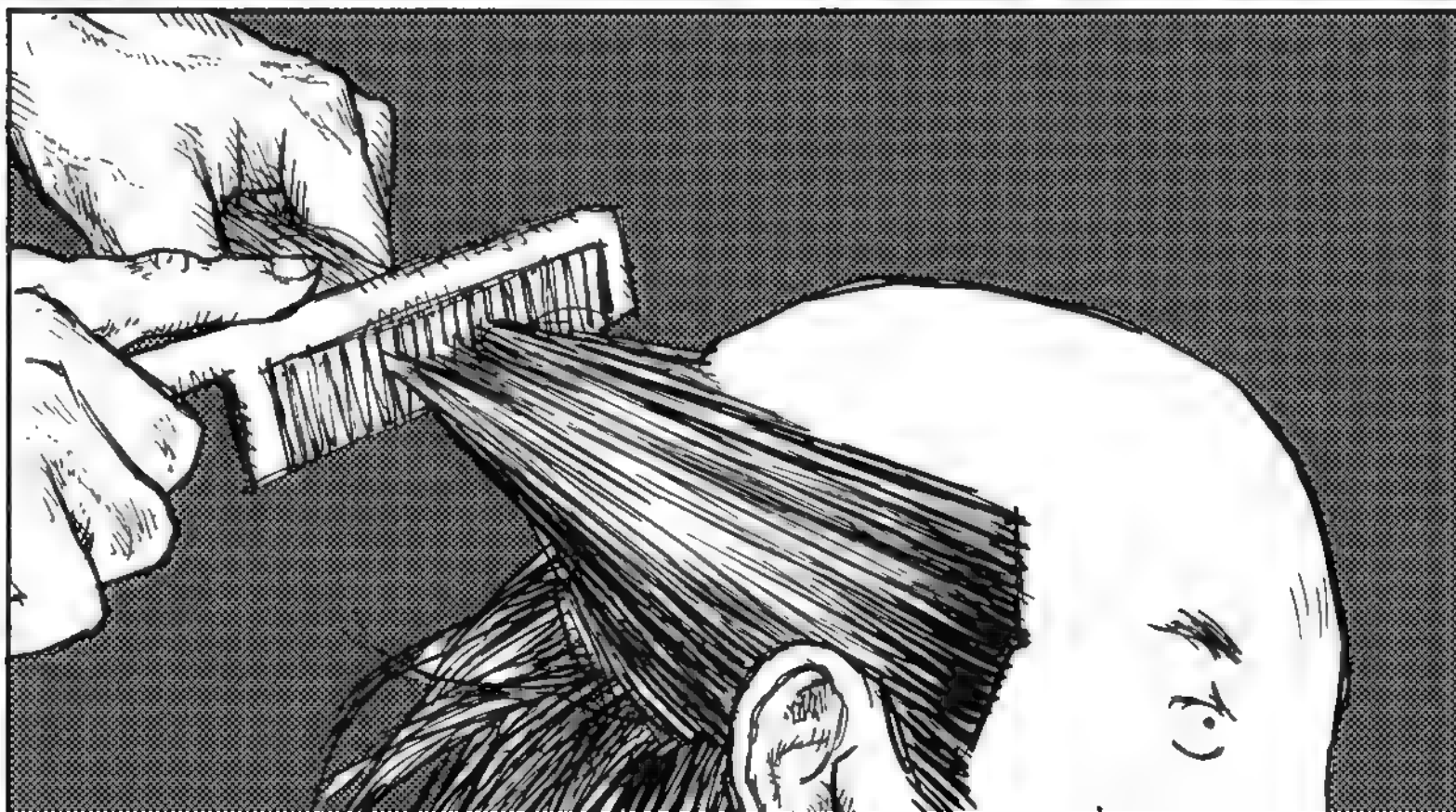
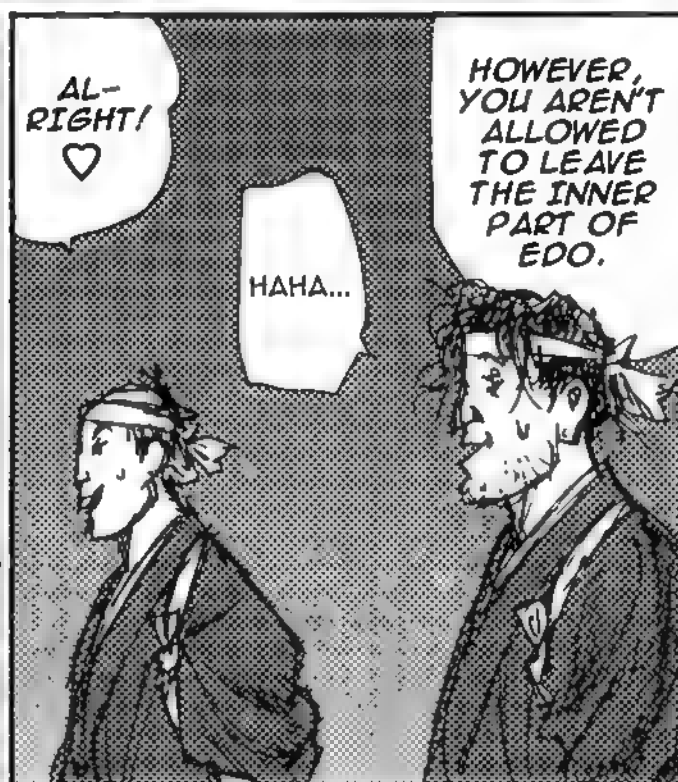
MY MOM
WILL BE
SURPRISED
WHEN SHE
HEARS THAT
I'VE BECOME
A SAMURAI.

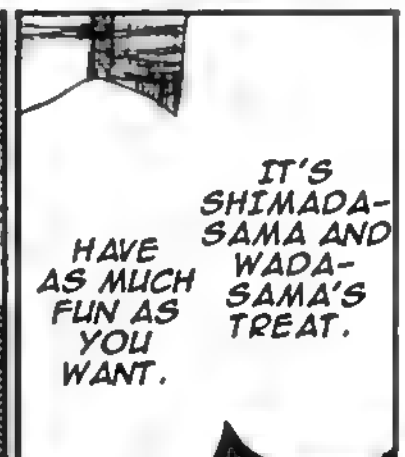


I'LL EXPLAIN
THE RULES OF
THIS UNIT NOW.











WE'RE
HEADED
TO THE
BROTHEL.

WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?



HEY,
USHI!



I'M NOT
IN THAT
MOOD.

HM?

WHY DO
I HAVE TO
GO TO THE
BROTHEL,
ANYWAY?



WHA..

I CAN'T
GO AND
SCREW
AROUND.

ARE YOU
FIGHTING
AGAIN?

I MIGHT
DIE TO-
MORROW



WHAT DID
YOU SAY!?
WANNA FIGHT,
MIDGET!?

YOU NEVER
USE YOUR
OWN BRAIN,
DO YOU!?

I ALSO
THINK
THAT YOU
SHOULD
GO, USHI-
GOROU-
SAN.



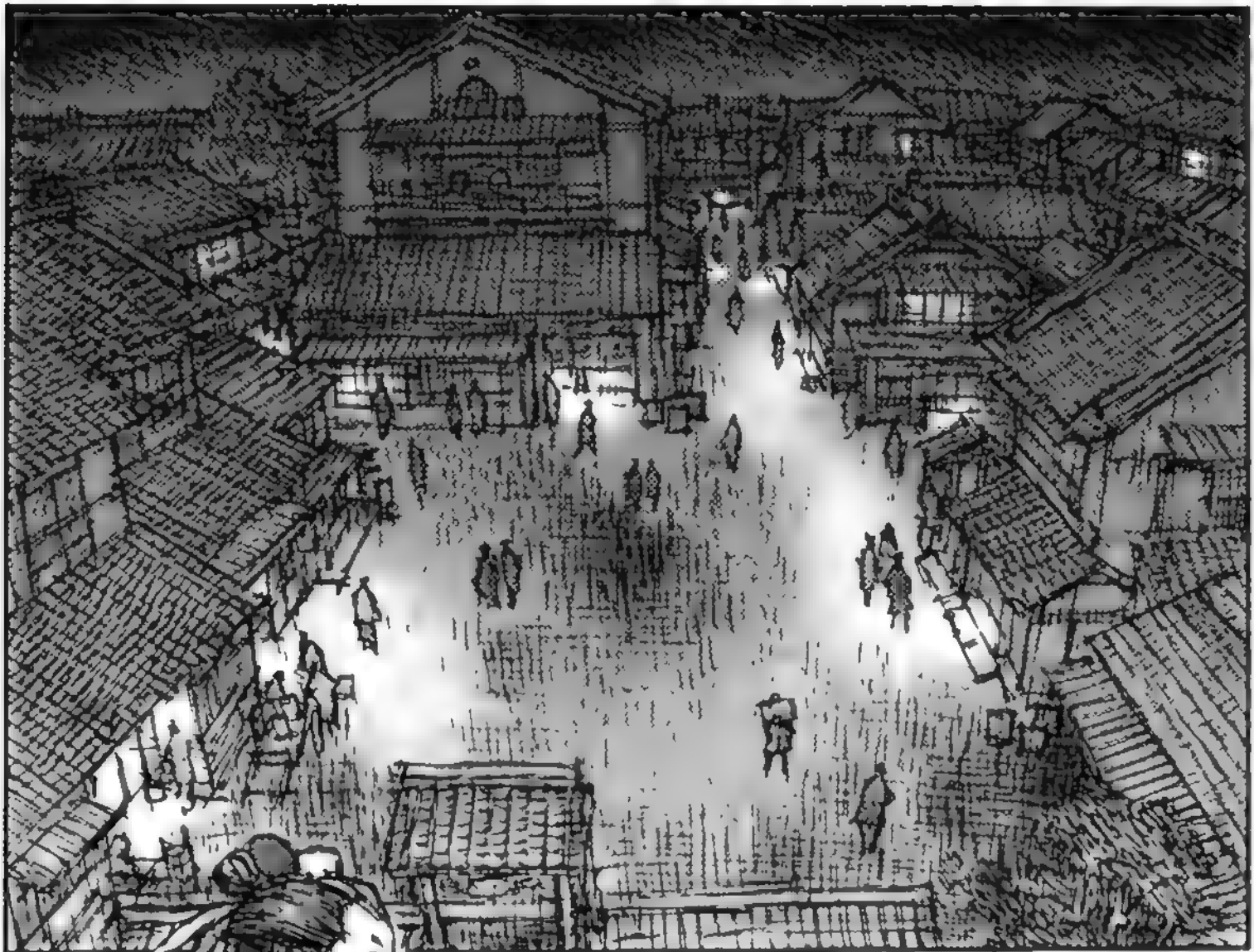
TSK!

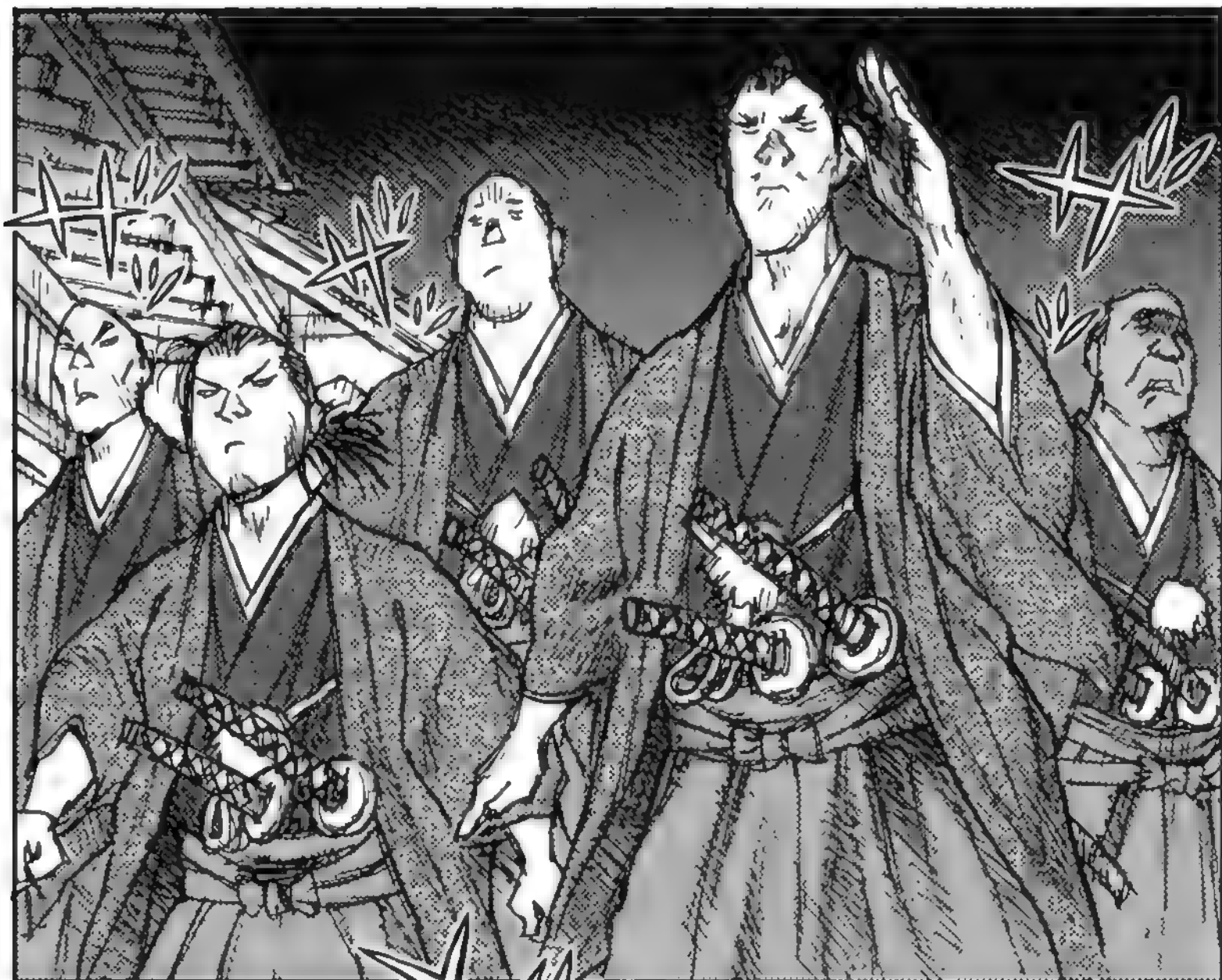
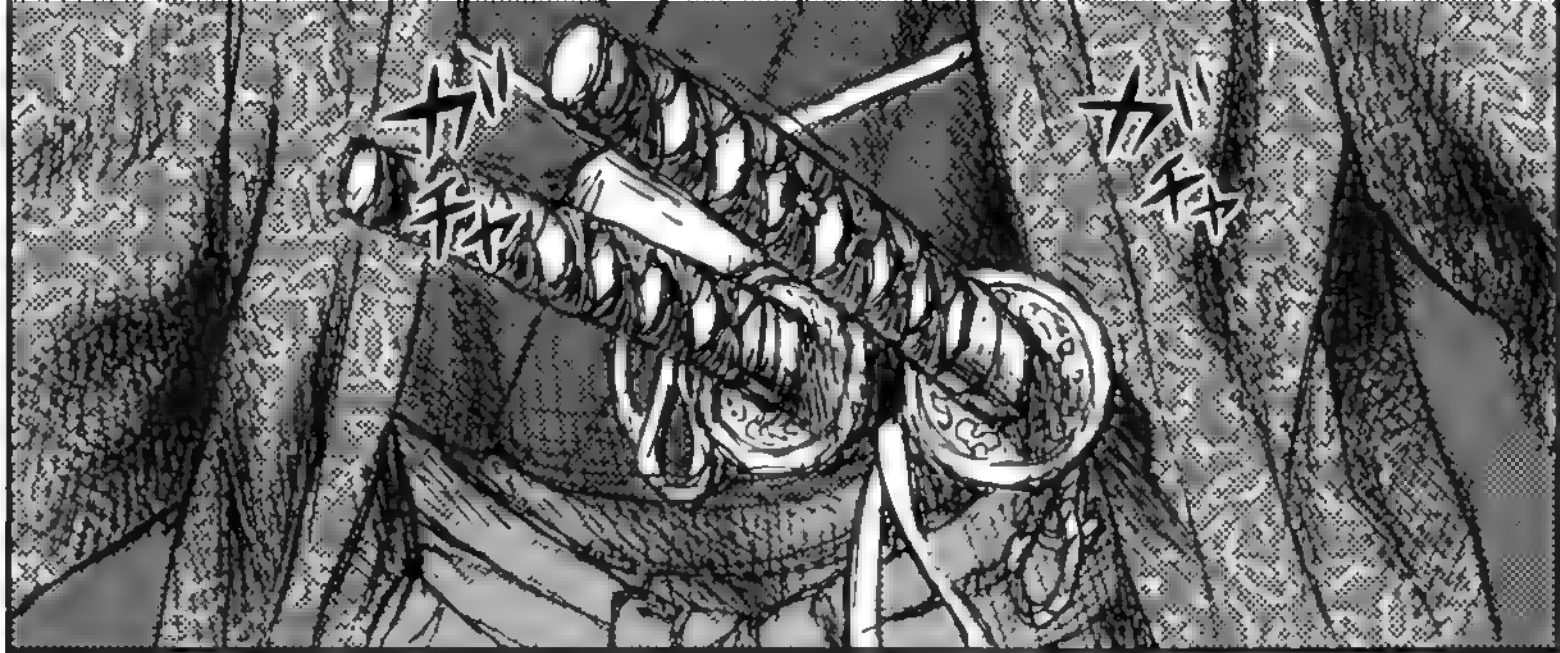
"EVERYONE
IS DOING
IT" AGAIN?



I PREFER
FOOD
OVER
WOMEN,
THOUGH.

EVERYONE
ELSE IS GOING
TOO, USHI!





SFX all over page Snicker







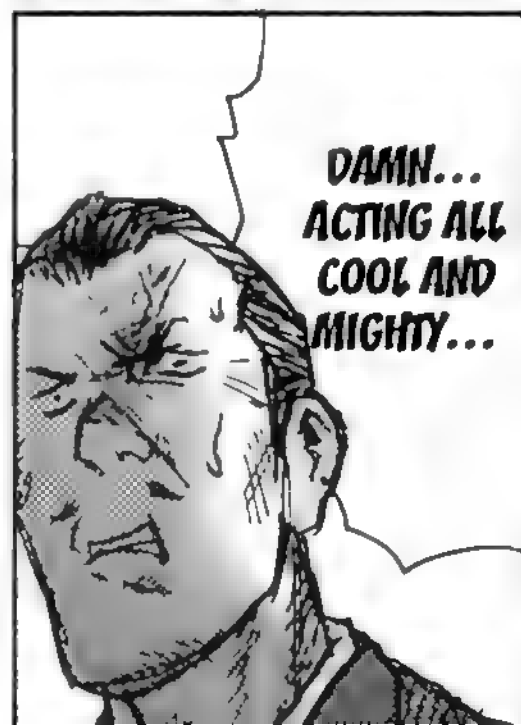


W-WHAT DO WE DO NOW? THERE ARE TWO SAMU-RAIS COMING THIS WAY.



HEY!
USHI!

THEY'RE
THE REAL
DEAL!



DAMN...
ACTING ALL
COOL AND
MIGHTY...



AREN'T WE
THE REAL
DEAL AS
WELL?



DON'T
SHIT YOUR
PANTS, YOU
COWARD!

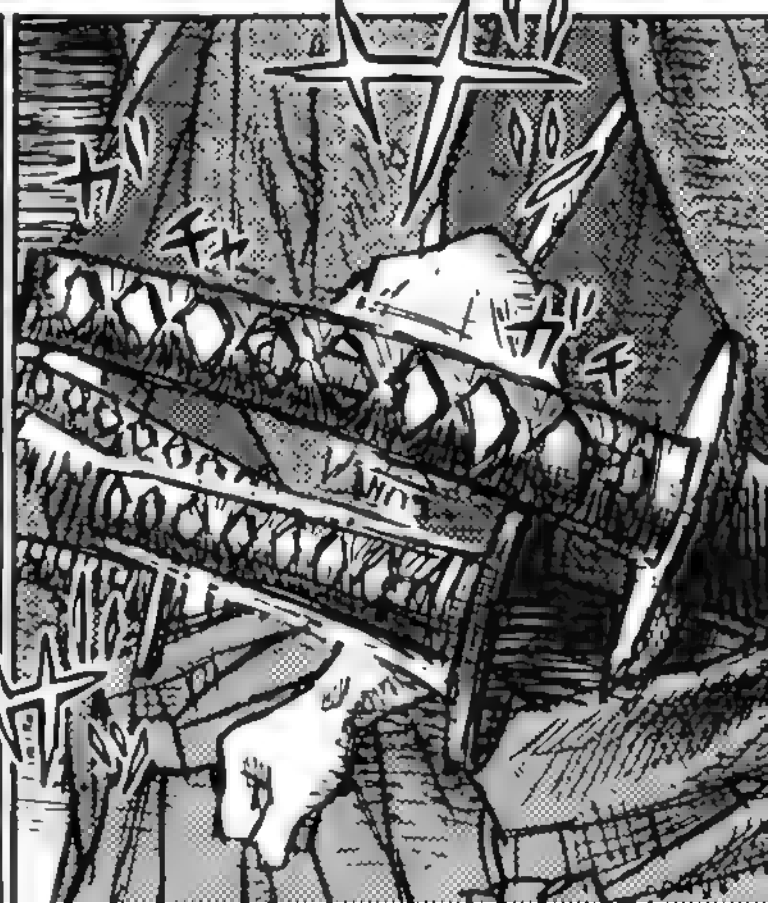
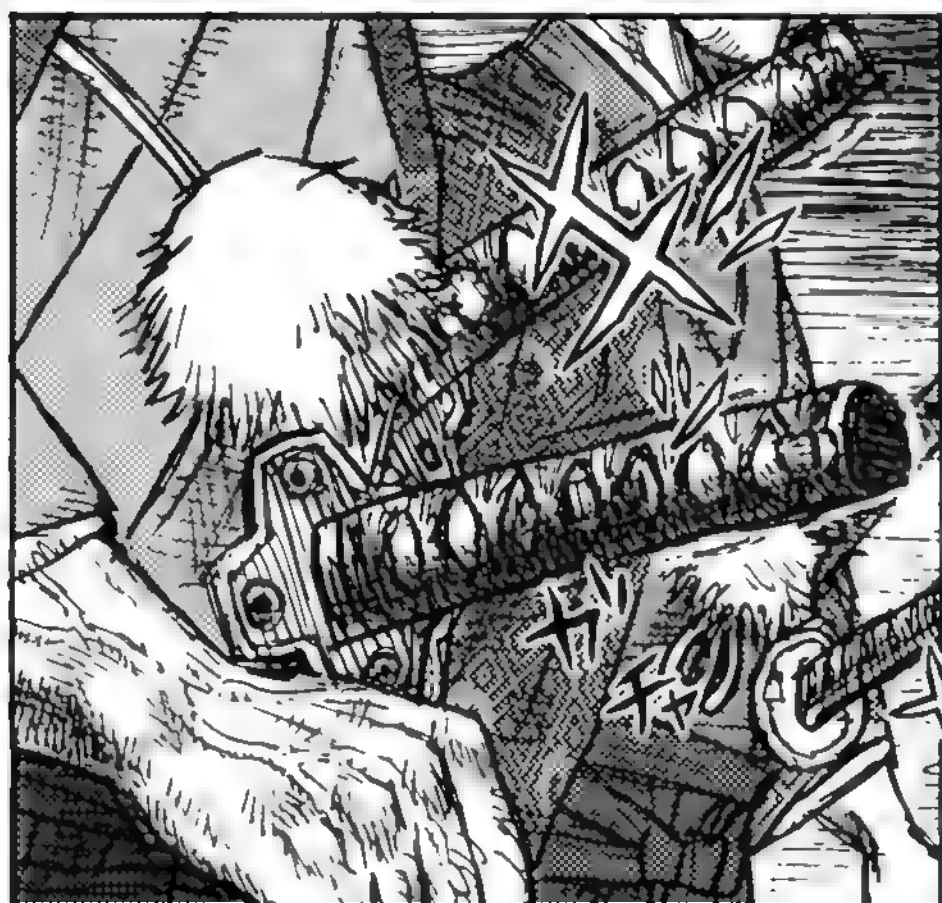


BRING
IT ON!



HEY,
ICHI...

VERY
WELL
THEN!







**OH NO!
QUICK, WE
HAVE TO MAKE
A WISH!**

**AH!
LOOK, ICHIDONO!
IT'S A
SHOOTING
STAR!**



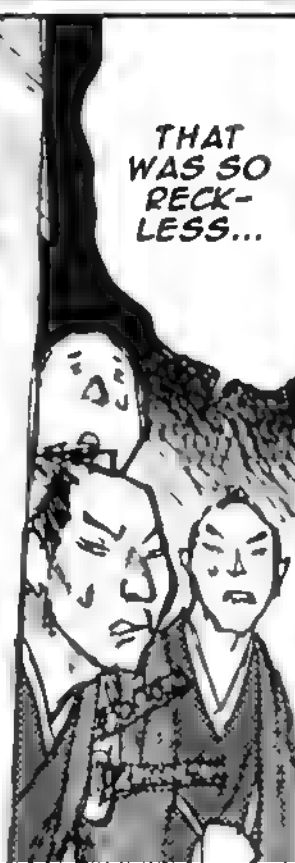
I THINK
THEY'RE
DRUNK.

WHO
ARE
THEY?



WHA.

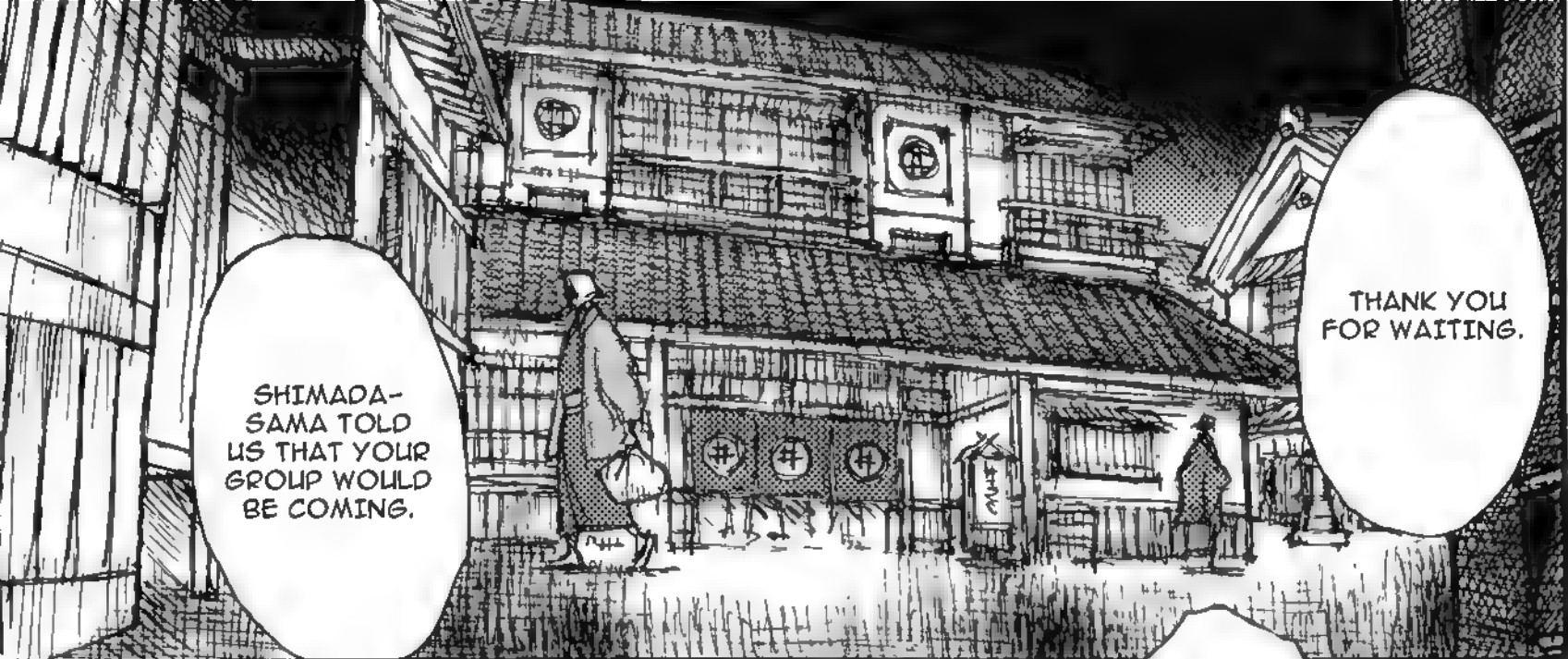
**STOP HIDING
BEHIND ME!**



THAT
WAS SO
RECK-
LESS...



LET'S
GO.



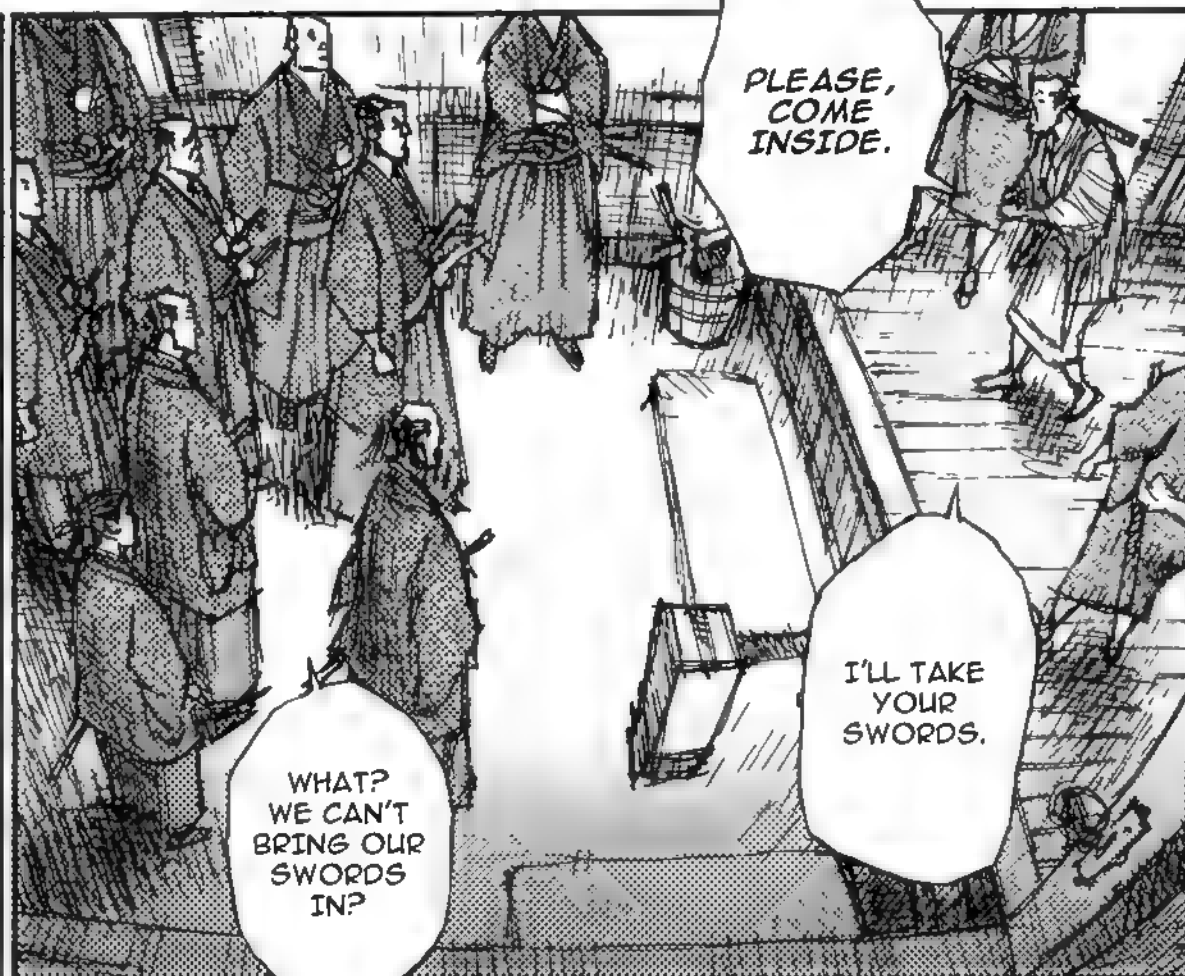
SHIMADA-SAMA TOLD US THAT YOUR GROUP WOULD BE COMING.

THANK YOU FOR WAITING.



IS IT...?

ISN'T THAT OBVIOUS?



PLEASE, COME INSIDE.

WHAT? WE CAN'T BRING OUR SWORDS IN?

I'LL TAKE YOUR SWORDS.



I DON'T CARE ABOUT WOMEN. I WANT FOOD!

ALRIGHT.

I'LL GO TO MY ROOM FIRST. GO HAVE FUN WITH THE GIRLS.

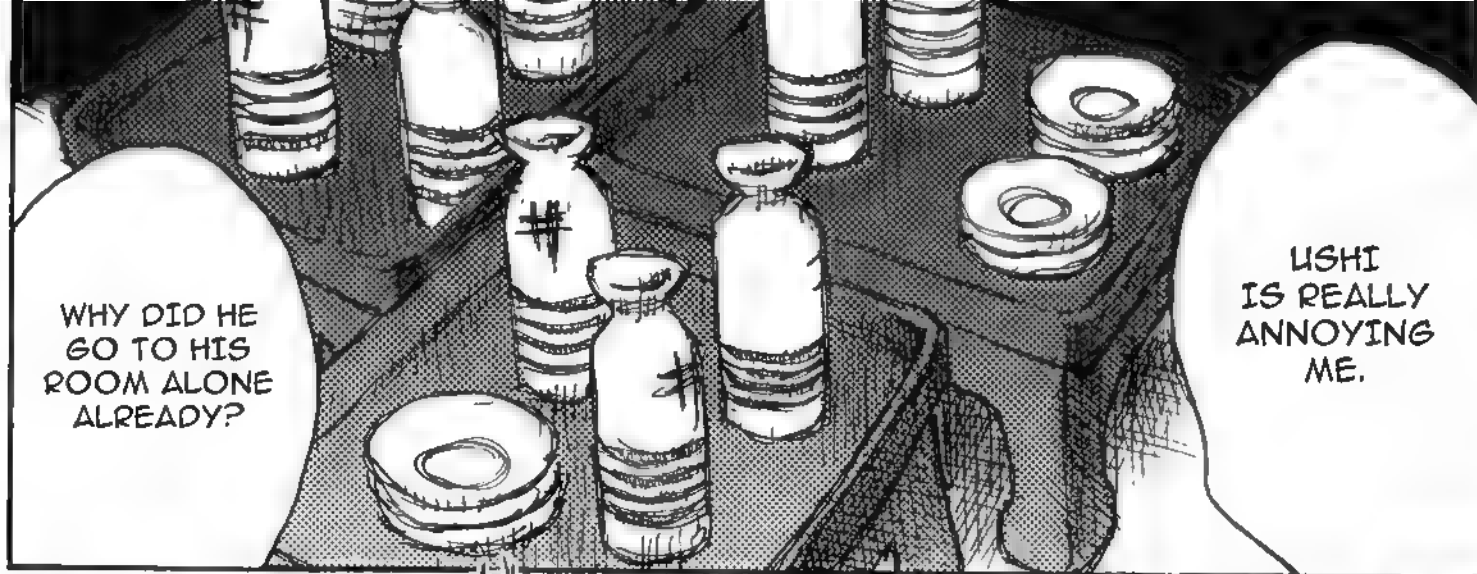


I HOPE THERE ARE SOME YOUNG CUTIES... THE OLD ONES CHATTER TOO MUCH.

OF COURSE.



I'LL CALL THE LADIES RIGHT AWAY. PLEASE HAVE SOME SAKE IN THE SALON...



WHY DID HE
GO TO HIS
ROOM ALONE
ALREADY?

USHI
IS REALLY
ANNOYING
ME.



WHAT IF
WE ALL DIE,
THOUGH?

YOU'VE
A POINT.
WE SHOULD
DECIDE ON
THAT NOW.

IF I DIE,
WOULD ANY-
ONE BRING
MY MONEY
BACK HOME?

BUT IT'S TRUE.
WE MIGHT EVEN
DIE TOMORROW.
IS IT OKAY FOR
US TO FOOL
AROUND?



HOW CAN YOU
BE A SAMURAI
IF YOU'RE ALREADY
SHITTING YOUR
PANTS?

LISTEN TO ME!
WE AREN'T
GOING TO DIE!
WE'RE GOING
TO KILL!

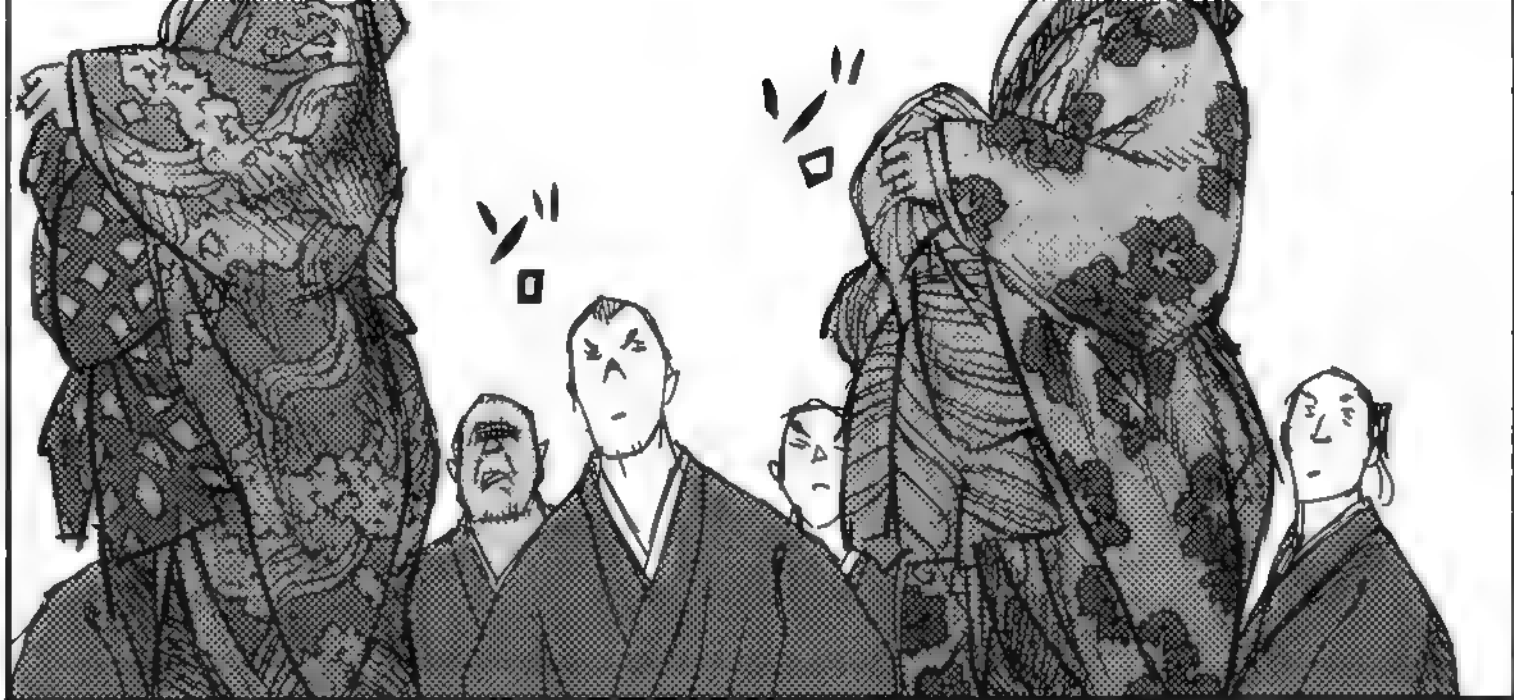
WHY ARE
YOU GUYS
WORRYING
ABOUT THAT?

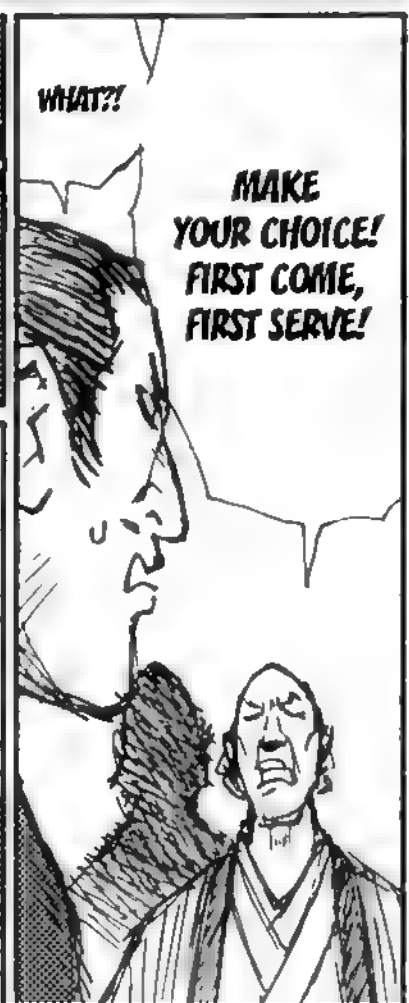


THERE
LADIES,
COME
INSIDE.

WHA...

YOU'RE
PREACHING
TO US ABOUT
COWARDICE, BUT
WEREN'T YOU THE
ONE WHO GOT
COLD FEET JUST
BECAUSE THOSE
GUYS GLANCED
AT YOU,
ICHI?







HMPH.



CLOSE

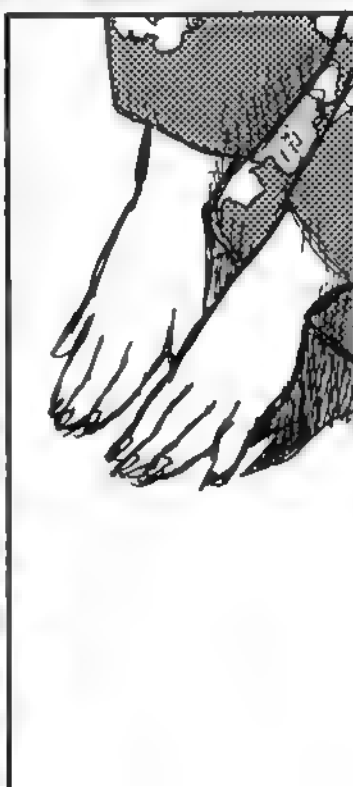
EXCUSE
ME.



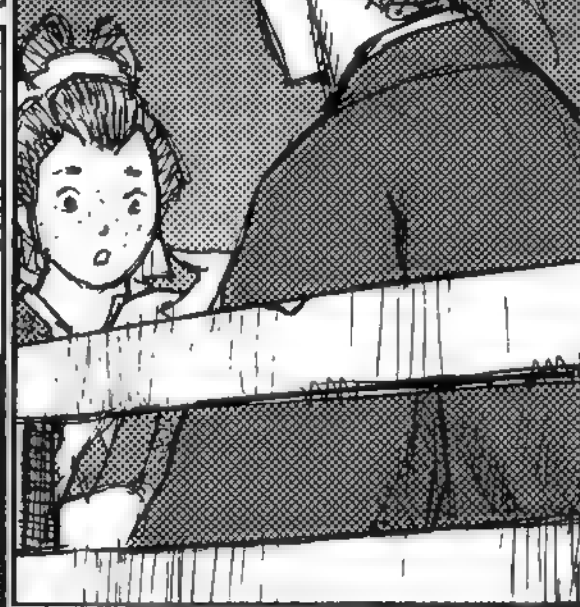
ALL YOU
HAVE TO DO
IS POUR ME
SAKE.

I DON'T
CARE.

PLEASED
TO MEET
YOU,
MY NAME
IS...









IT EVEN
SMELLS
OF THE
SOIL

I-I'M A
SAMURAI!
I AIN'T NO
PEASANT!



IT REALLY
BRINGS BACK
MEMORIES...

THE
SMELL OF
MY MOTH-
ER AND
FATHER...



WHAT'S
THE MEANING
OF THIS?



I DON'T
CARE ABOUT
THAT!

BUT
TODAY
WE HAVE
A LARGE
GROUP THAT
MADE A
RESER-
VATION...



WHAT DO
YOU MEAN,
YOU CAN'T
ACCEPT US?

AREN'T YOU
AWARE THAT WE
HAVE WALKED ALL
THE WAY HERE?
HOW CAN YOU
TURN US AWAY?



SOMETHING
FEELS OFF WHEN I
DON'T FUCK SONO
ONCE EVERY
TEN DAYS.

LET'S
FORGET
ABOUT THIS
PLACE,
IMUDA-
DONO.

I-I...
I'M TER-
RIBLY
SORRY.



SATSUMA...



IT'S
IMUDA-
SAMA,
A SAMURAI
FROM SAT-
SUMA.

HE WAS
TALKING
ABOUT
YOU.



HE'S VERY
VIOLENT.

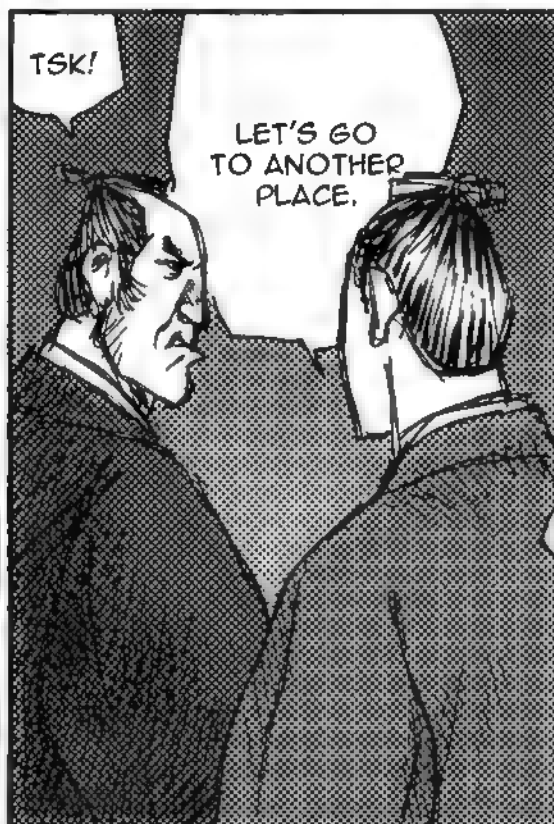
HE BUYS
ME QUITE
FREQUENT-
LY...



LET'S HOPE
YOUR PLACE
WON'T BE
TARGETED BY
CRIMINALS.

P-PLEASE
FORGIVE
ME...

YOU BETTER
BE ON YOUR
TOES, OLD
MAN.



TSK!

LET'S GO
TO ANOTHER
PLACE.



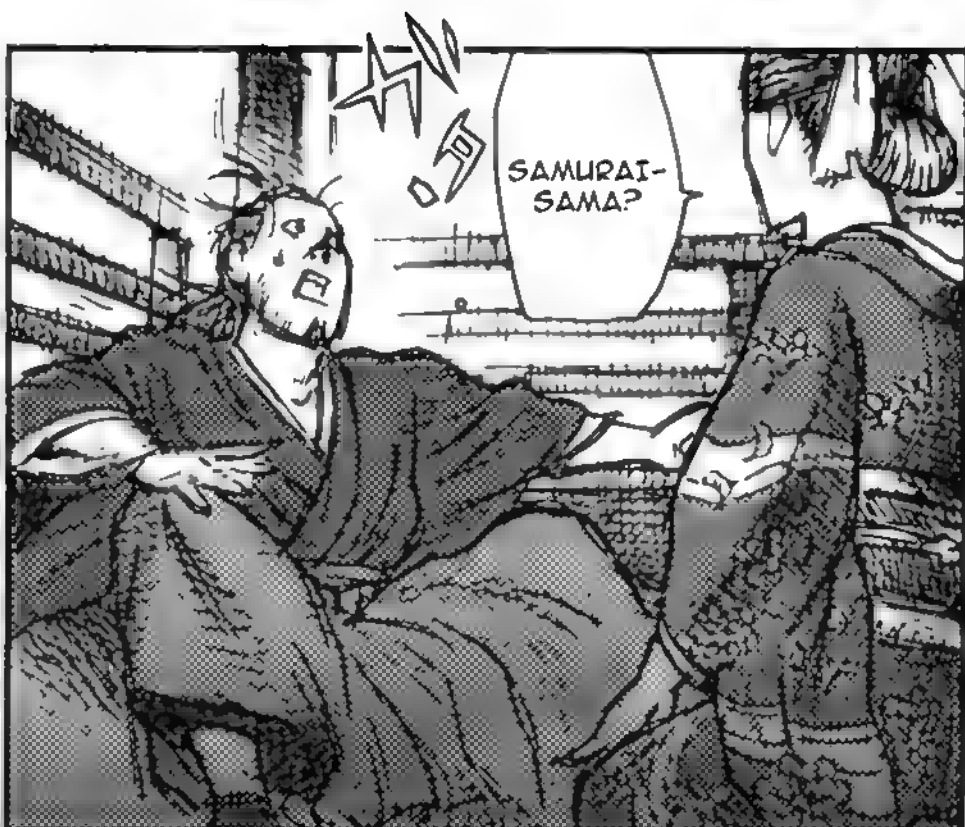
HMP?





IS
SOME-
THING
WRONG?

IMUDA-
DONO?

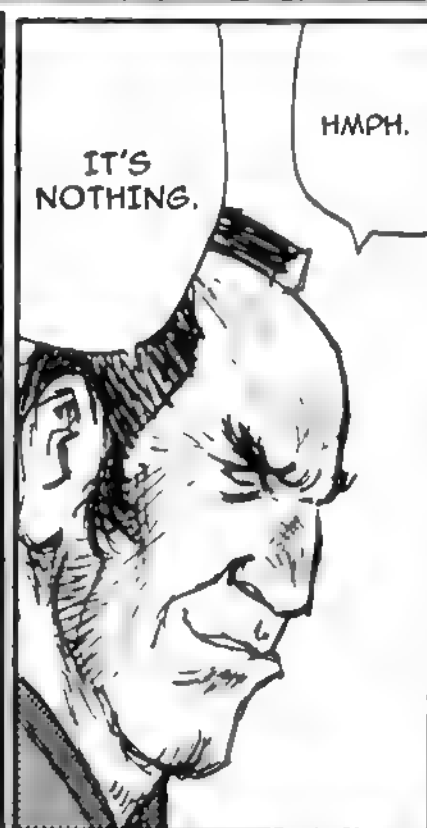


SAMURAI-
SAMA?



DUCKING
HIS HEAD
DOWN.

JUST ONE
COWARD



IT'S
NOTHING.

HMPH.



OH YEAH...
IT'S THE
SAME AS
THAT MAN...

THAT
BASTARD'S
EYES...
HE'S NOT
NORMAL...



WHAT'S
WRONG,
SAMURAI-
SAMA?

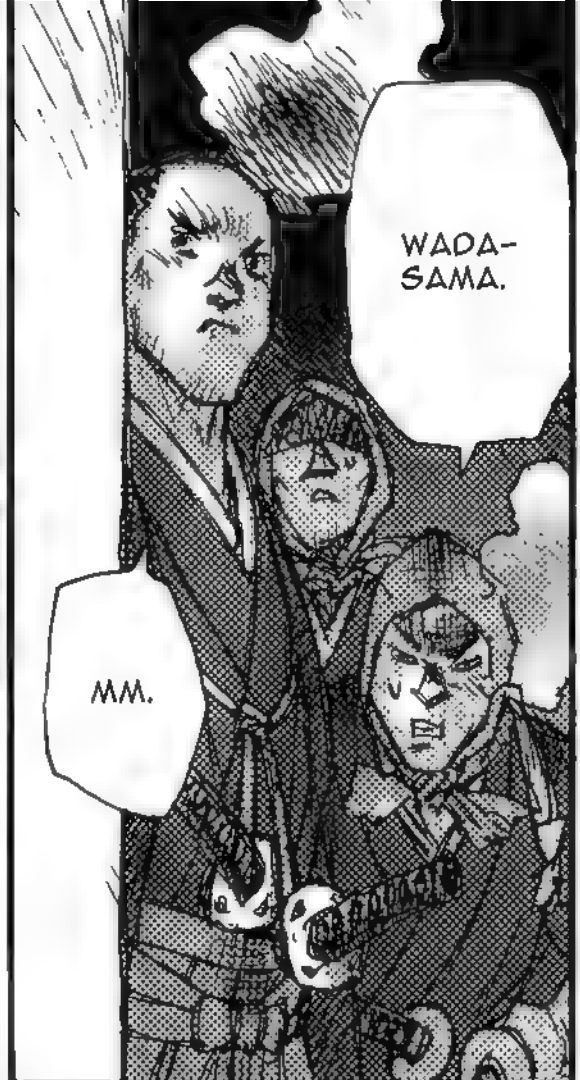






I CAN SEE.
AND USE
MY ALIAS -
SHIMA.

W-
WE'RE HERE,
SHIMADA-
SAMA.



WADA-
SAMA.

MM.



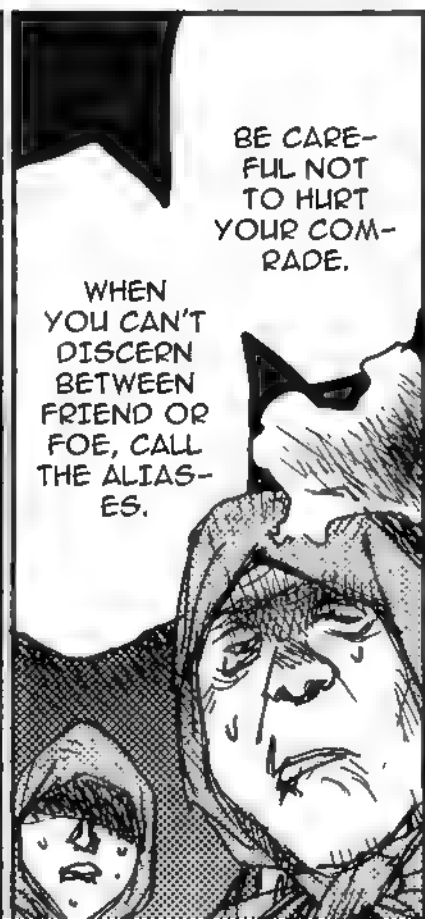
YOU
CAN'T SEE
THEM FROM
HERE, BUT
UP THE ROAD,
WADA'S UNIT
IS WAITING
IN AMBUSH.

BEFORE
THEY ARRIVE,
LET'S GO OVER
THE PLAN ONE
LAST TIME.



**CUT
THEM
DOWN!**

THOSE
WHO DON'T
REPLY
ARE THE
ENEMY.

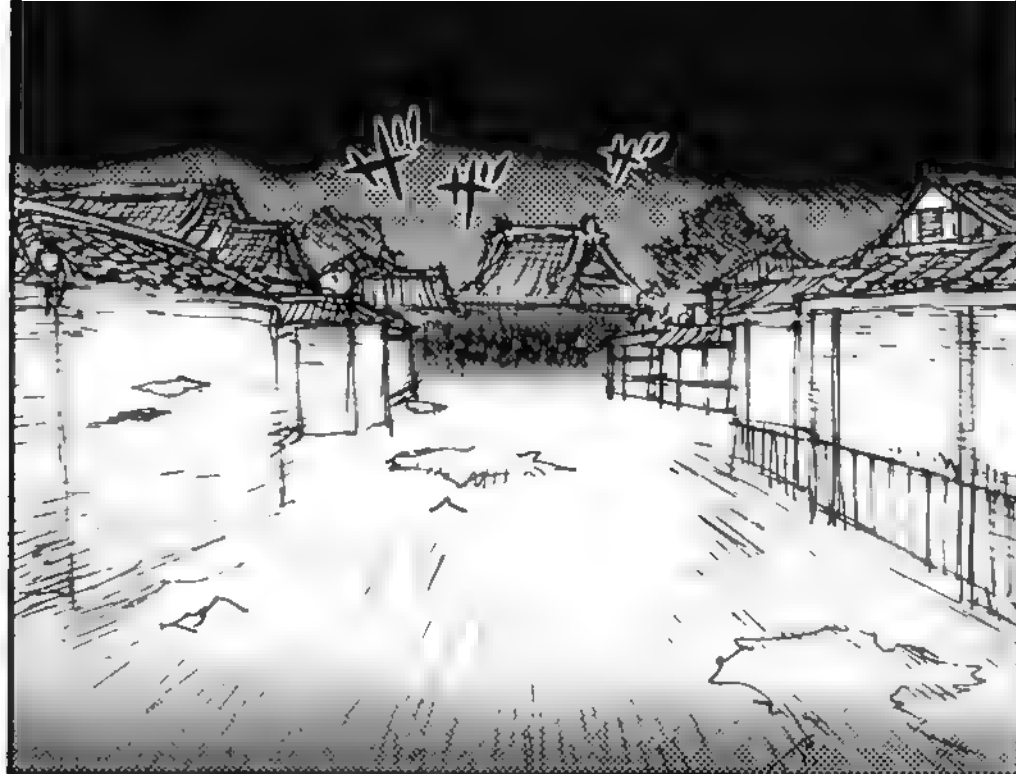


BE CARE-
FUL NOT
TO HURT
YOUR COM-
RADE.

WHEN
YOU CAN'T
DISCERN
BETWEEN
FRIEND OR
FOE, CALL
THE ALIAS-
ES.

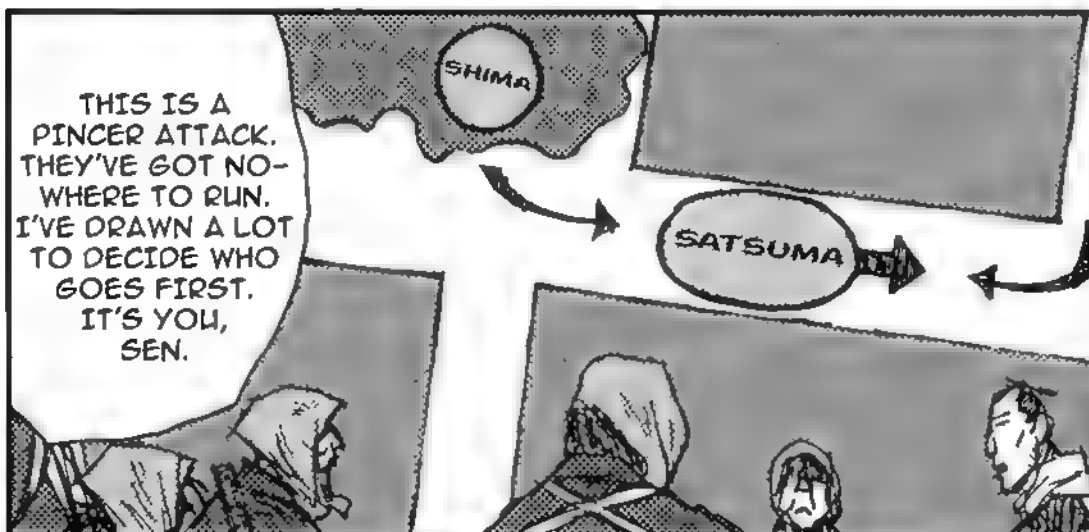


GO FOR THOSE
WHO HAVEN'T
DRAWN THEIR
SWORDS. IN OTHER
WORDS, THOSE WHO
HAVE THEIR BACKS
TURNED. THIS ISN'T
COWARDICE, BUT
WHAT WE CALL A
SURPRISE
ATTACK.



GOT IT?

WHEN THE
ENEMY PULLS
OUT THEIR
SWORDS, I'LL
GIVE THE SIGNAL
BEFORE THEY
RETALIATE. WHEN
YOU SEE THE
SIGNAL, YOU
WILL RETREAT
QUICKLY.



THIS IS A
Pincer ATTACK.
THEY'VE GOT NO-
WHERE TO RUN.
I'VE DRAWN A LOT
TO DECIDE WHO
GOES FIRST.
IT'S YOU,
SEN.

WA

WE'LL
ATTACK THEM
WHEN THEY
LEAVE THE
MANSION.

WE'LL
ATTACK THEM
FROM BEHIND,
WHILE WADA'S
UNIT ATTACKS
THEM FROM
THE FRONT.



IT'S...
IT'S IMPOS-
SIBLE FOR
A PEASANT
LIKE ME.

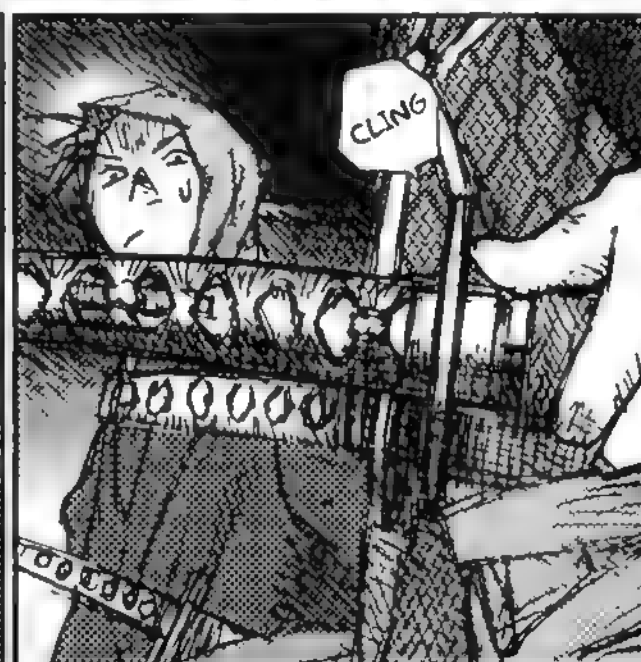
I-I...
I CAN'T
DO IT...



SHIMA...
SAMA...

WHAT'S
WRONG,
SEN?







AND WHEN
THEY DO, WE'LL
RETREAT IMME-
DIATELY!

WE'RE GOING
FOR THOSE WHO
HAVEN'T DRAWN
THEIR SWORDS!
THERE'S NO WAY
WE CAN LOSE!




USHI...

IF YOU GET
TERRIFIED,
JUST HIDE
BEHIND ME.



DON'T
WORRY! I'LL
PROTECT
YOU!



BE THE
FIRST TO
ATTACK?

WOULD
YOU LET
ME



SHIMA-
SAMA...



WHA...



AYE.

YOUR
ATTACK
WILL BE THE
SIGNAL.

I'LL
LEAVE IT
TO YOU,
USHI.



VERY
WELL.

WHAT ARE
YOU SAYING,
USHI?!



I'M GOING
TO BE THE
FIRST ONE TO
SLAY THEM!

DID YOU
HEAR THAT?



WE'RE GOING
TO MASSACRE
THE SAMURAI
OF SATSUMA!

ALRIGHT!

I'M NOT
GONNA LOSE
TO YOU!



IF YOU'RE
PISSED OFF,
YOU GUYS BETTER
FOLLOW ME!





HAHAHA.

THE SAKE
REALLY TASTES
BETTER AFTER A
GOOD WORKOUT.

WE SURE
WENT ALL OUT
TONIGHT.



YOU'LL FEEL
SOME RELIEF
AFTER BANGING
THOSE WOMEN.



UNLIKE
YOSHIWARA, THE
WOMEN THERE
ARE FINER AND
KNOW THEIR
PLACES.

AFTER WE
RETURN TO
THE DAIMYO'S
SPARE RESI-
DENCE, WE'LL
HEAD TO
MURAYA.



LOWER
YOUR HEAD
MORE.

USHI,



は は は

TH...

THEY'RE
HERE.

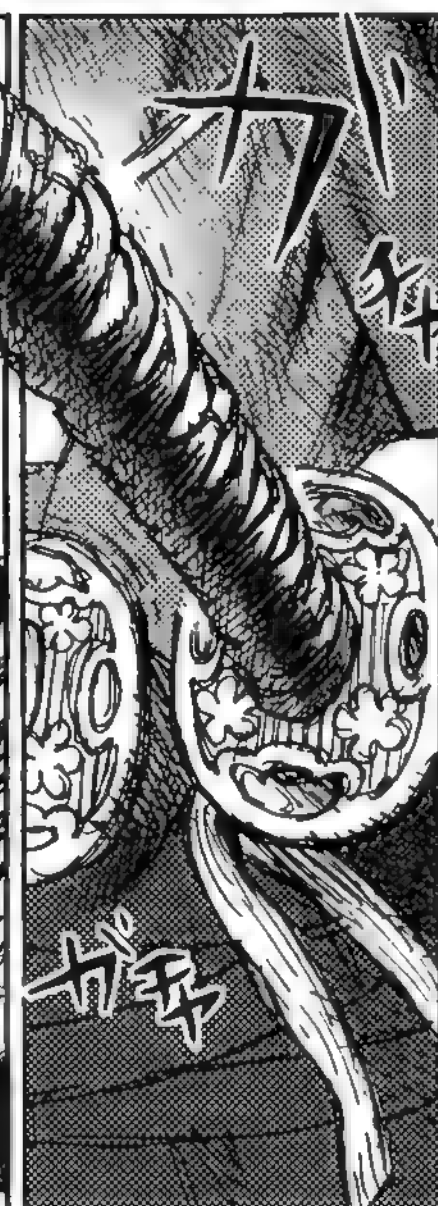


CHAPTER 5 BLOOD IN THE WIND



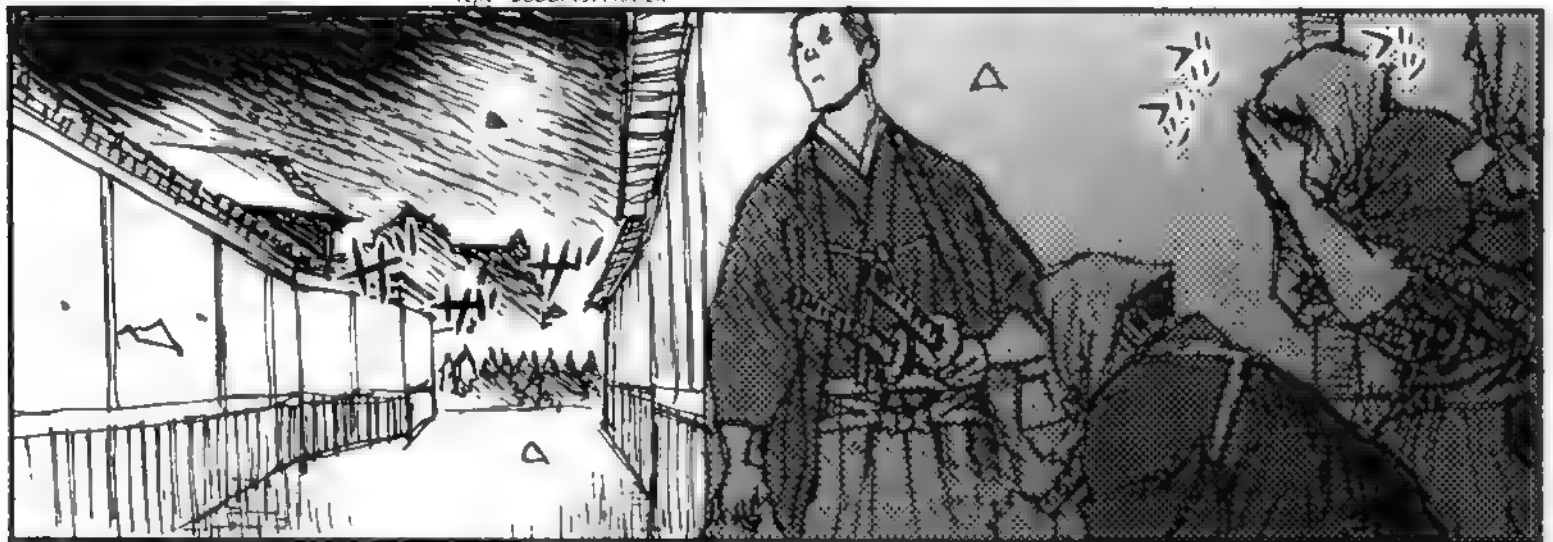
ARE WE
GOING TO
TAKE THEM
ALL JUST
AS NINE?

THERE
ARE 30...
NO, 40.





TL/N - BUDDHIST PRAYER





AYE!

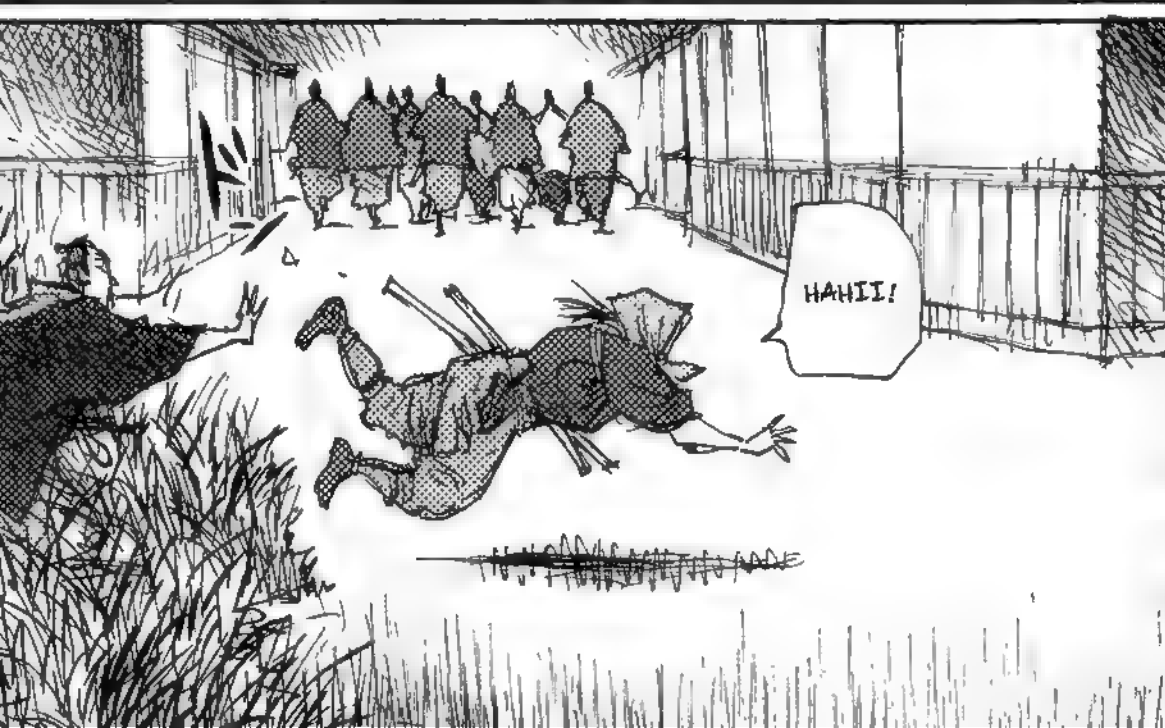


GO,
USHI!

OKAY,
NOW IS
THE TIME.



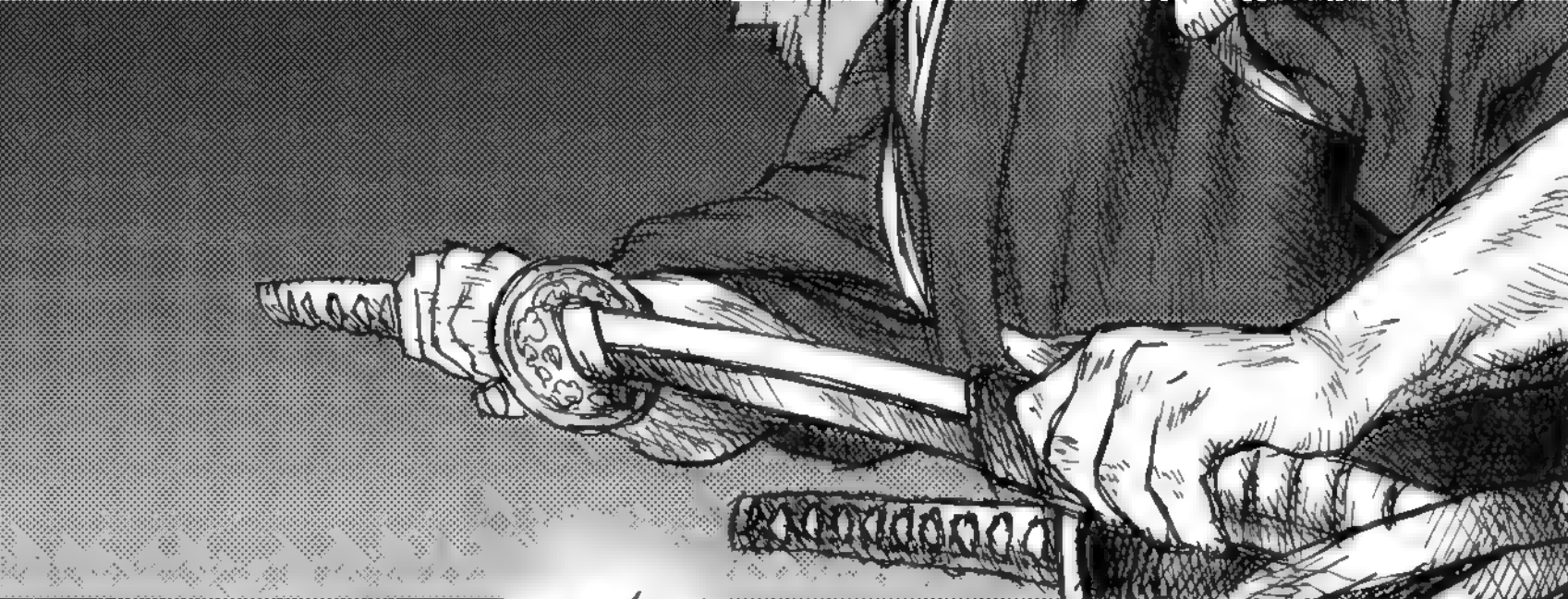
TSK!

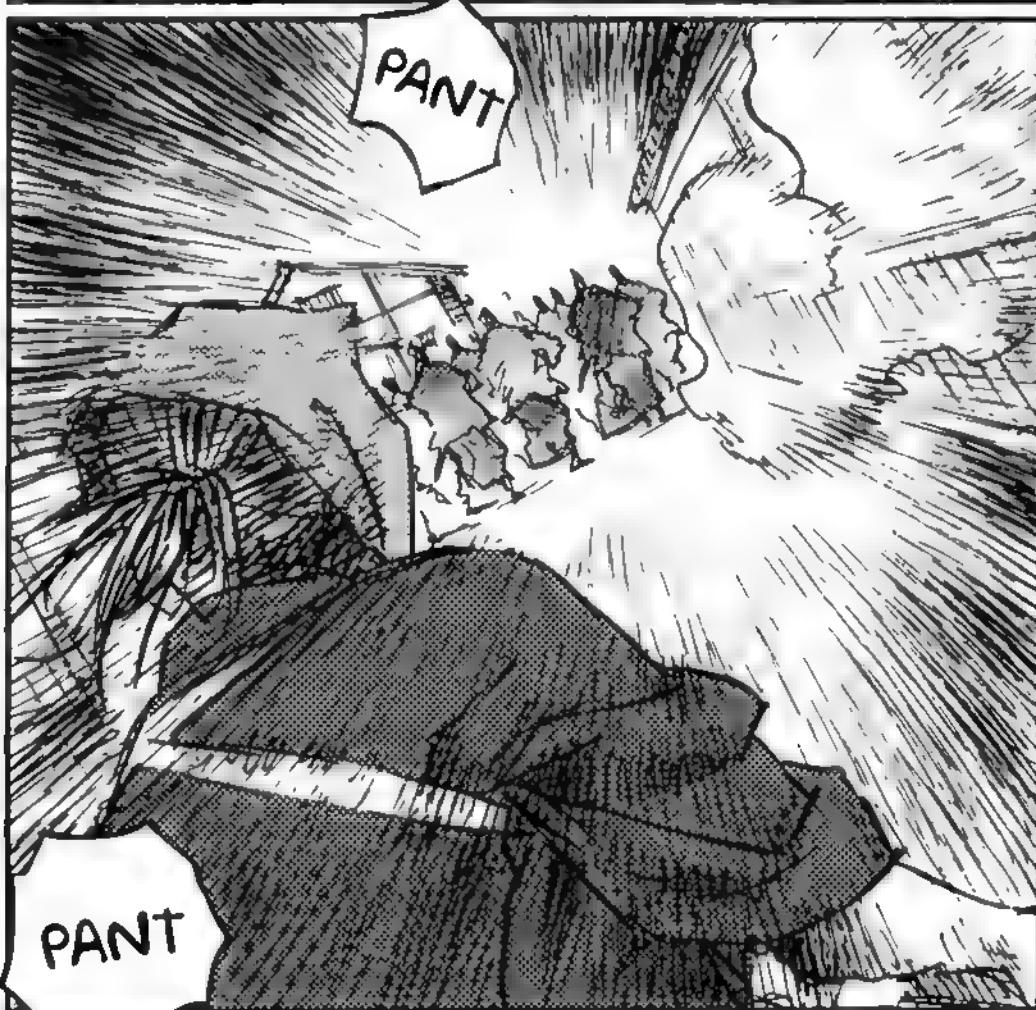


HAHII!













NO...

WRONG!



I GOT IT ALL
MEMORIZED.

I KNOW
EVERYTHING
ABOUT HIM.



NOT EVEN
HUMAN!

HE'S THE
ENEMY!



I'M
ABOUT
TO KILL
HIM.

HE IS
WHAT
I HATE
MOST...
A SAMU-
RAI.



THAT'S WHY,
HE DOESN'T
HAVE A NAME
OR A FAMILY.

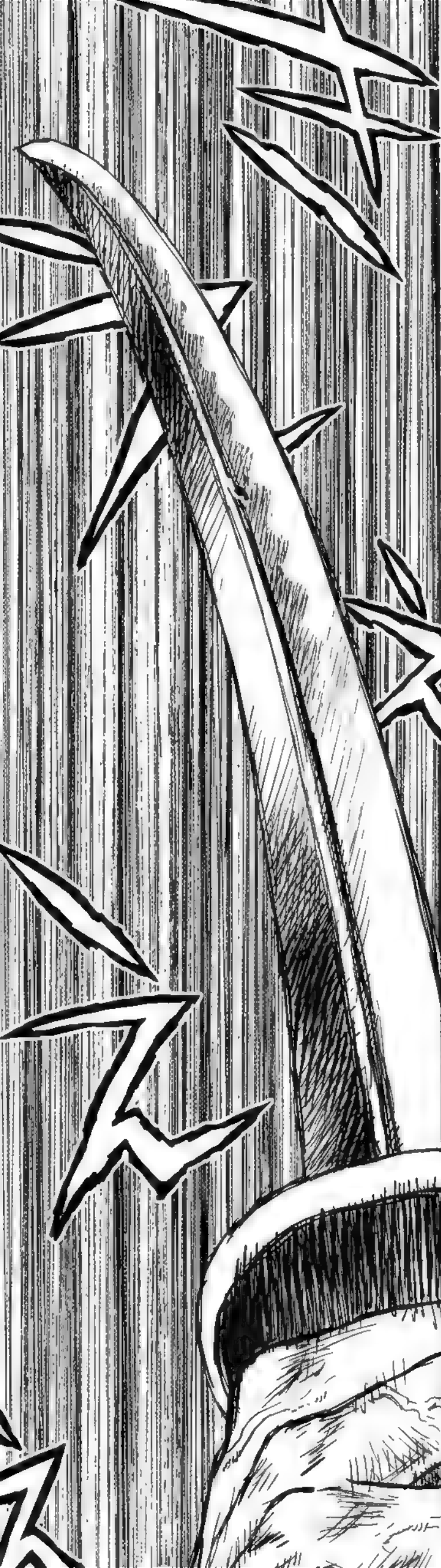
HE DOESN'T
EVEN HAVE
AN AGE.



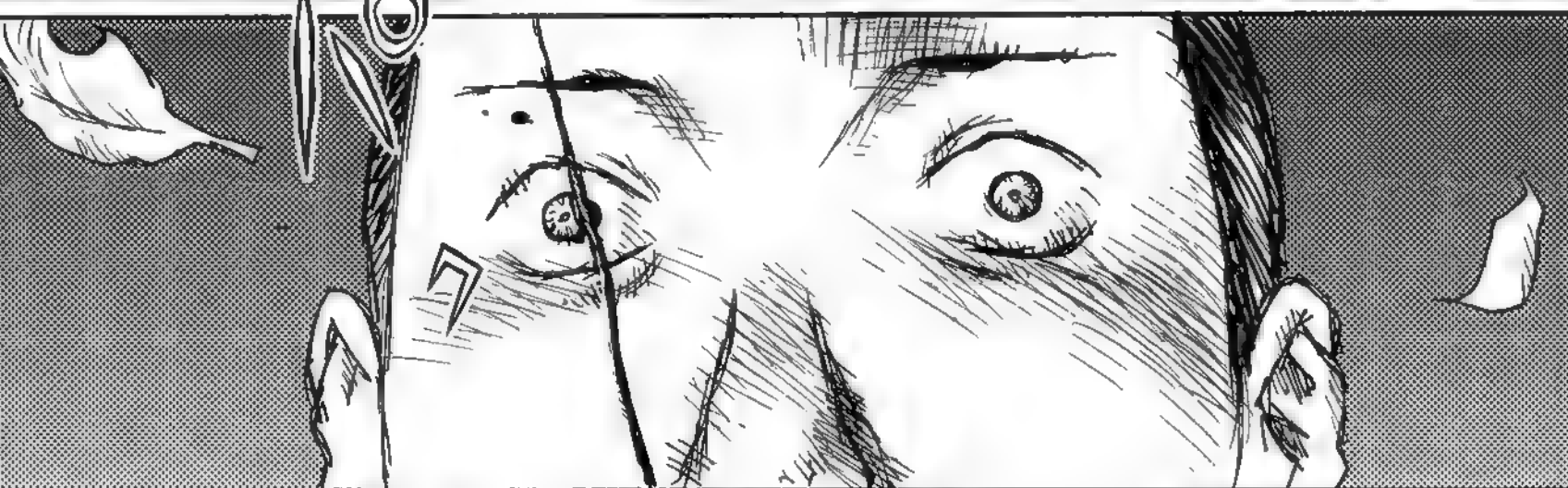
HE DOESN'T
HAVE ONE!

AND
THAT'S WHY
HE DOESN'T
HAVE A FACE,
EITHER!











THRUST!



は
は
は

WHAT
WAS THAT
STRANGE
VOICE?

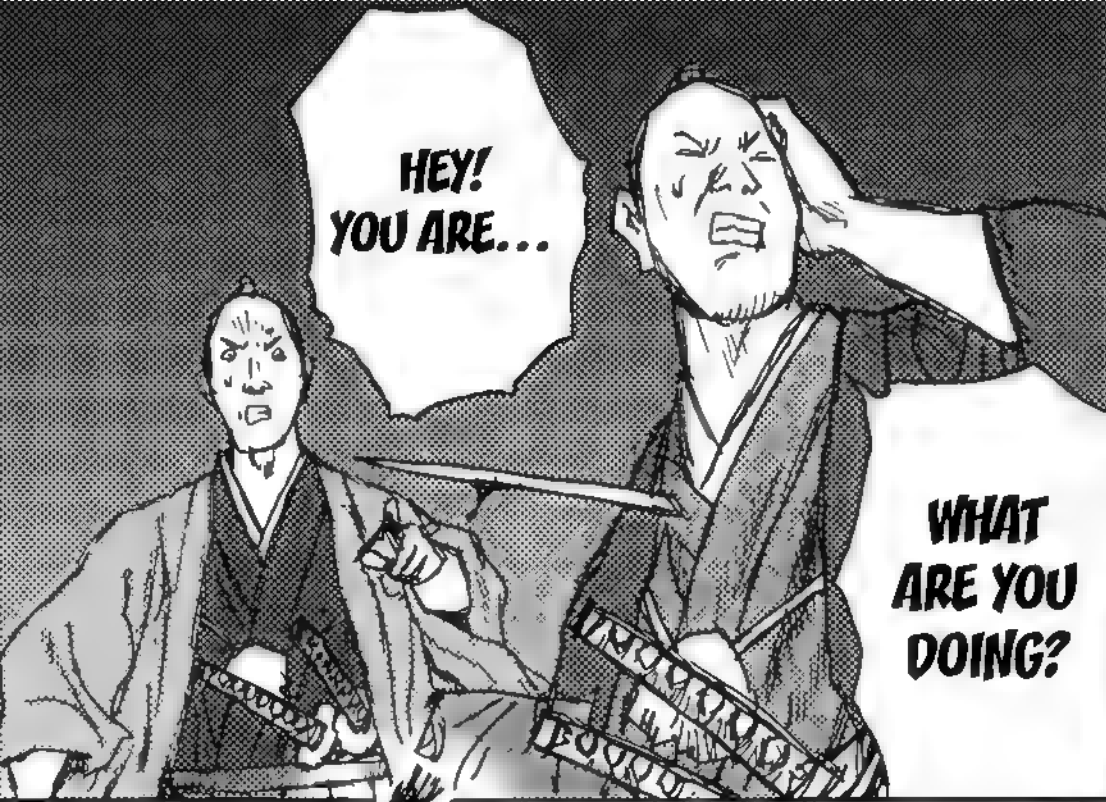
MAYBE
SOMEONE
GOT DRUNK
ALREADY?



GA...

GUAH!





HEY!
YOU ARE...

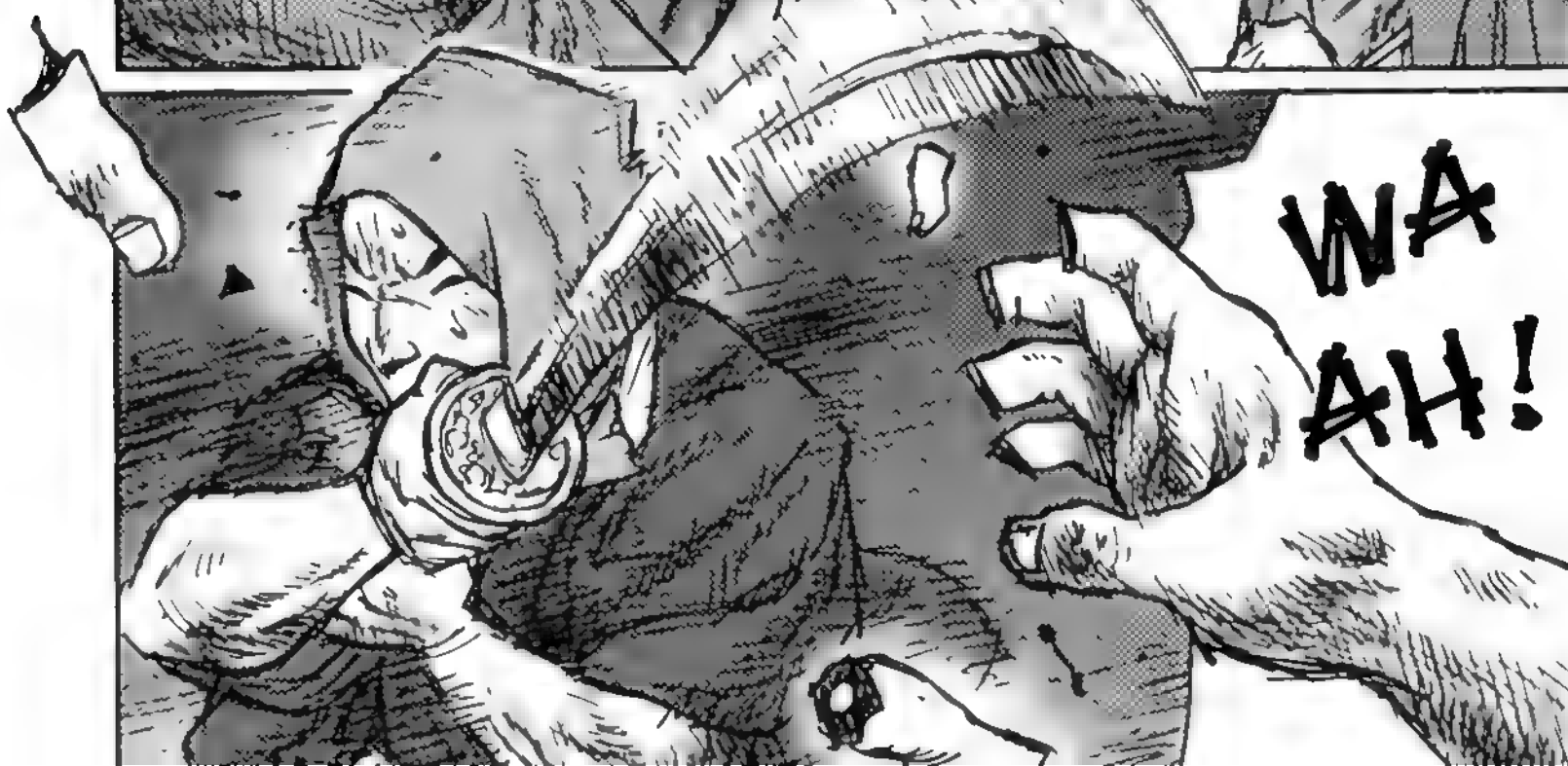
WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?



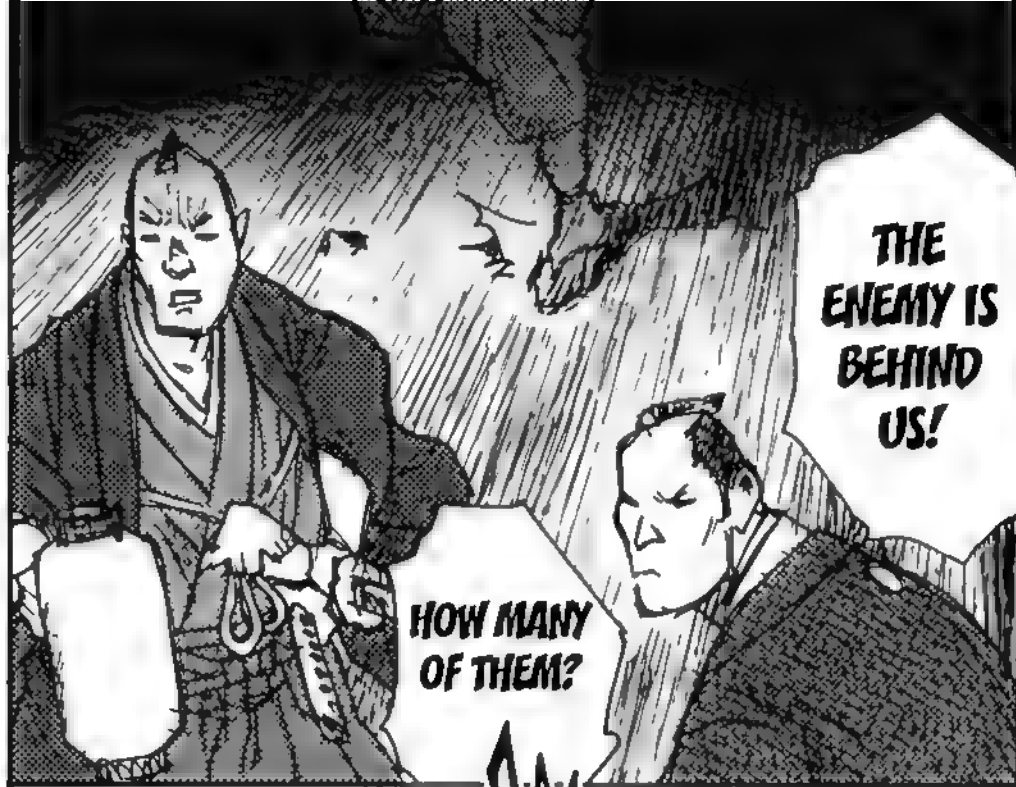
OWWW!



NUUH!

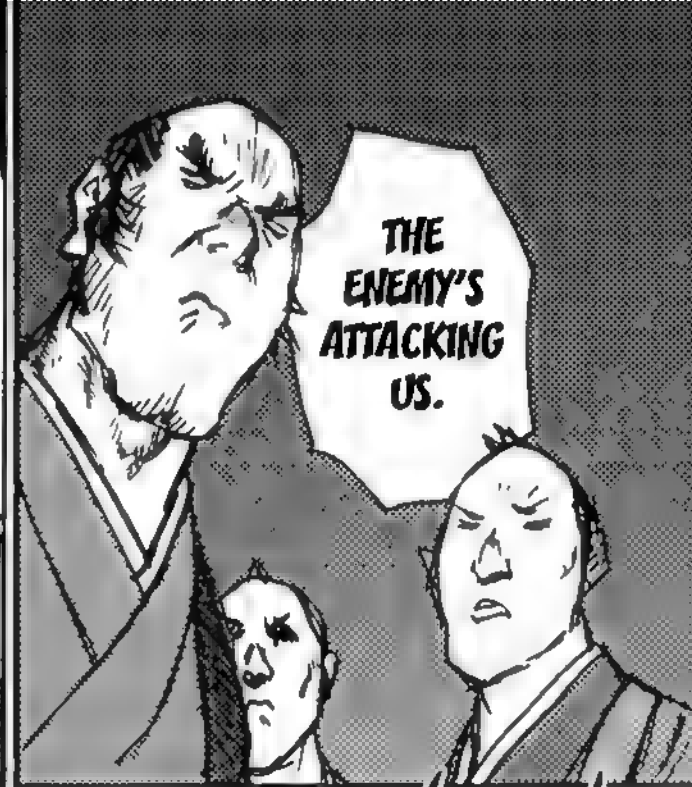




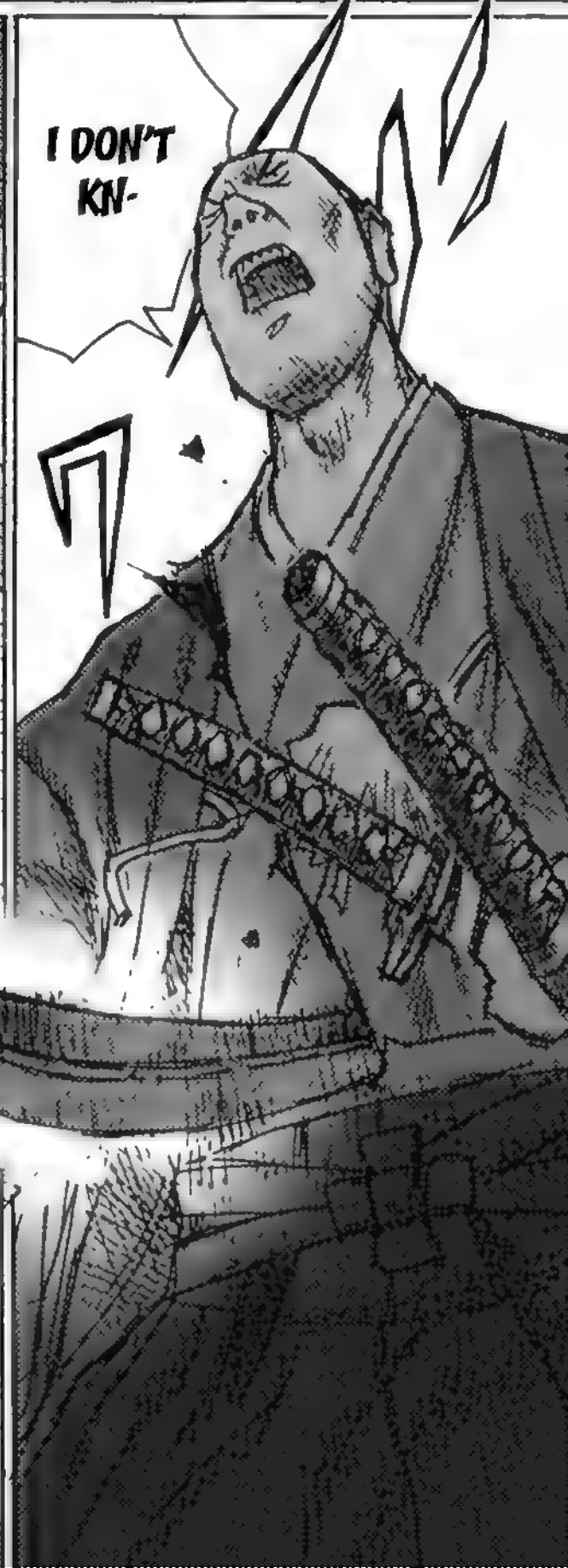


THE
ENEMY IS
BEHIND
US!

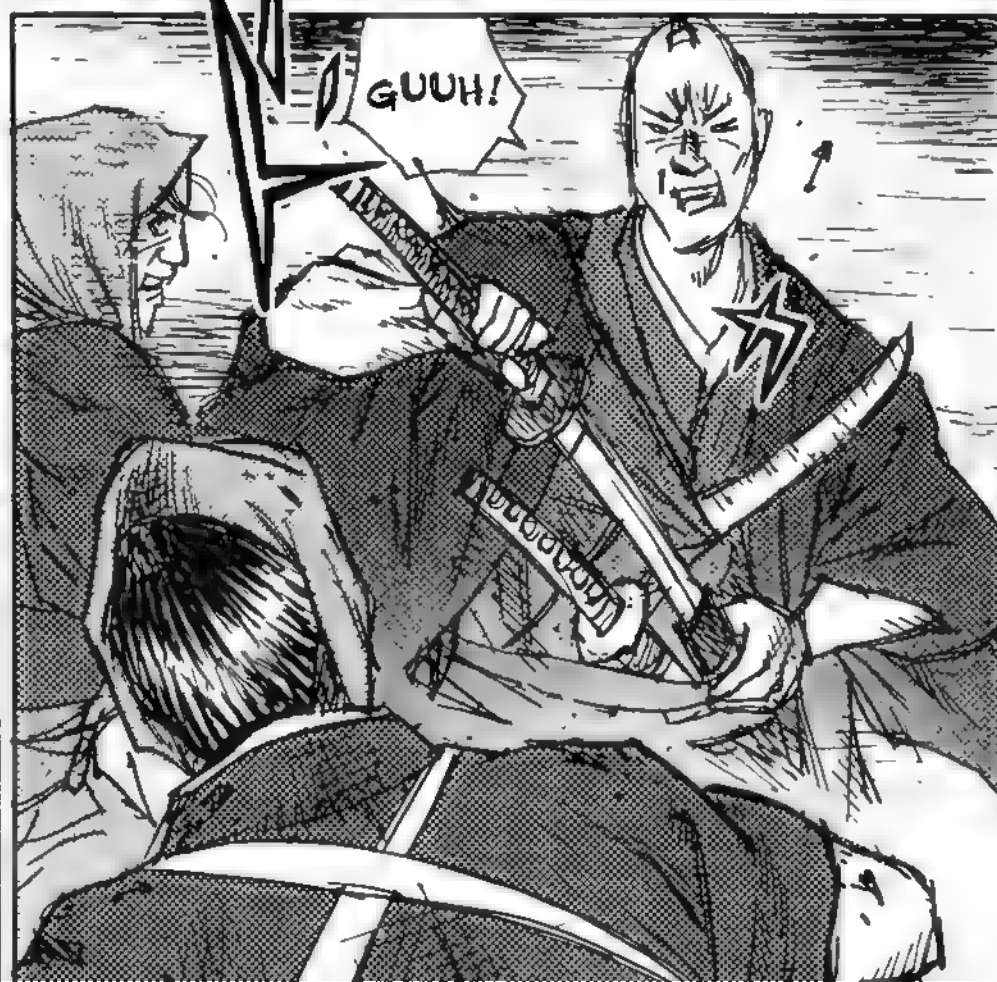
HOW MANY
OF THEM?



THE
ENEMY'S
ATTACKING
US.



I DON'T
KN-





WHAT'S
GOING ON?!

THE
ENEMY IS
AHEAD OF
US, TOO!



UWAAH!



DAMN!
MY SWORD...

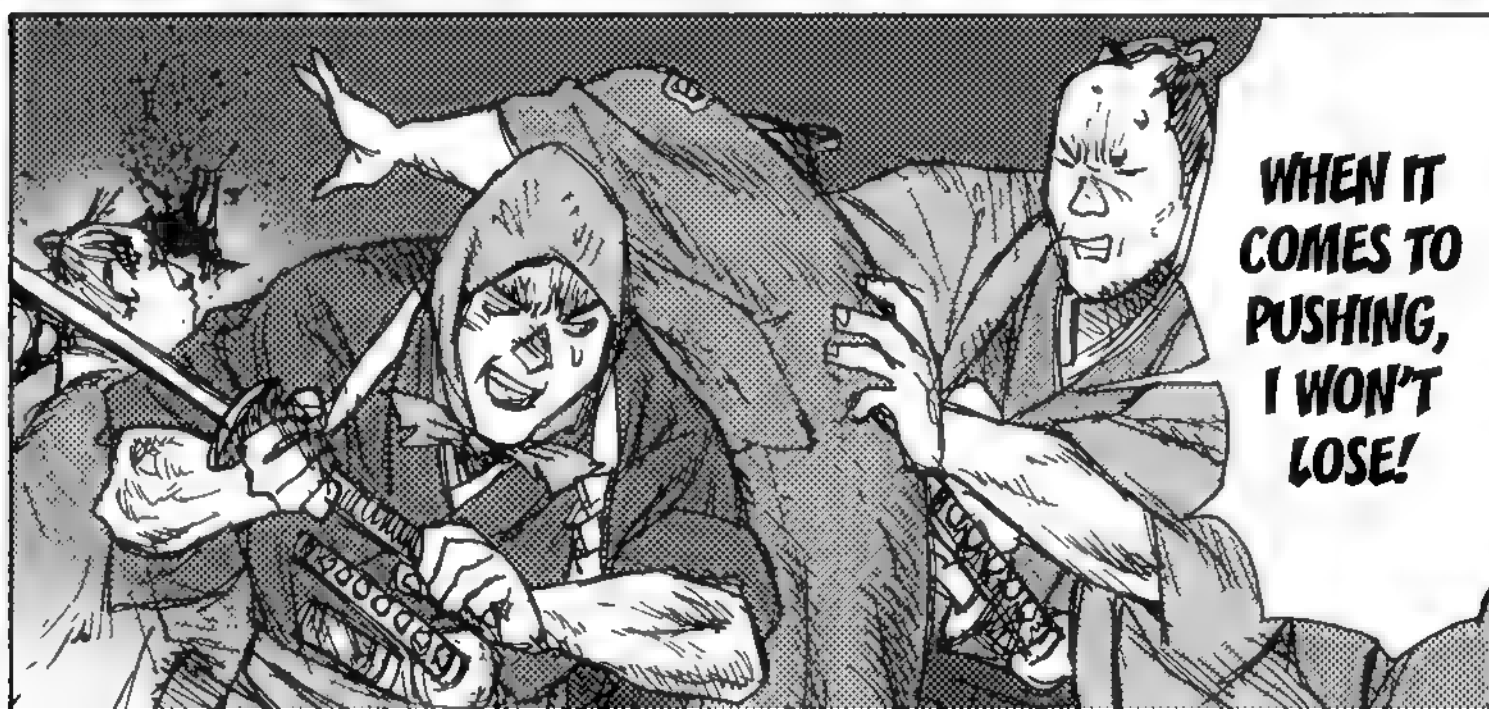
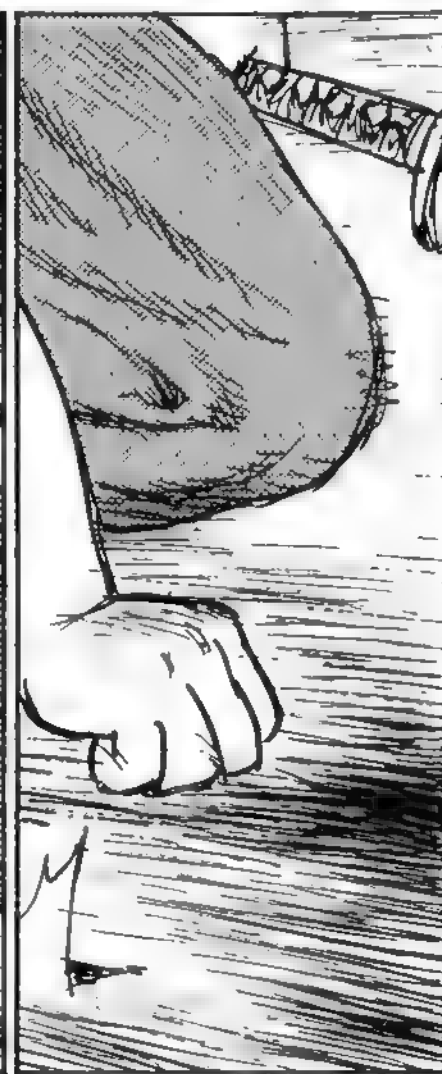
HIT



HOLD ON!

HAHIII!





HIII!

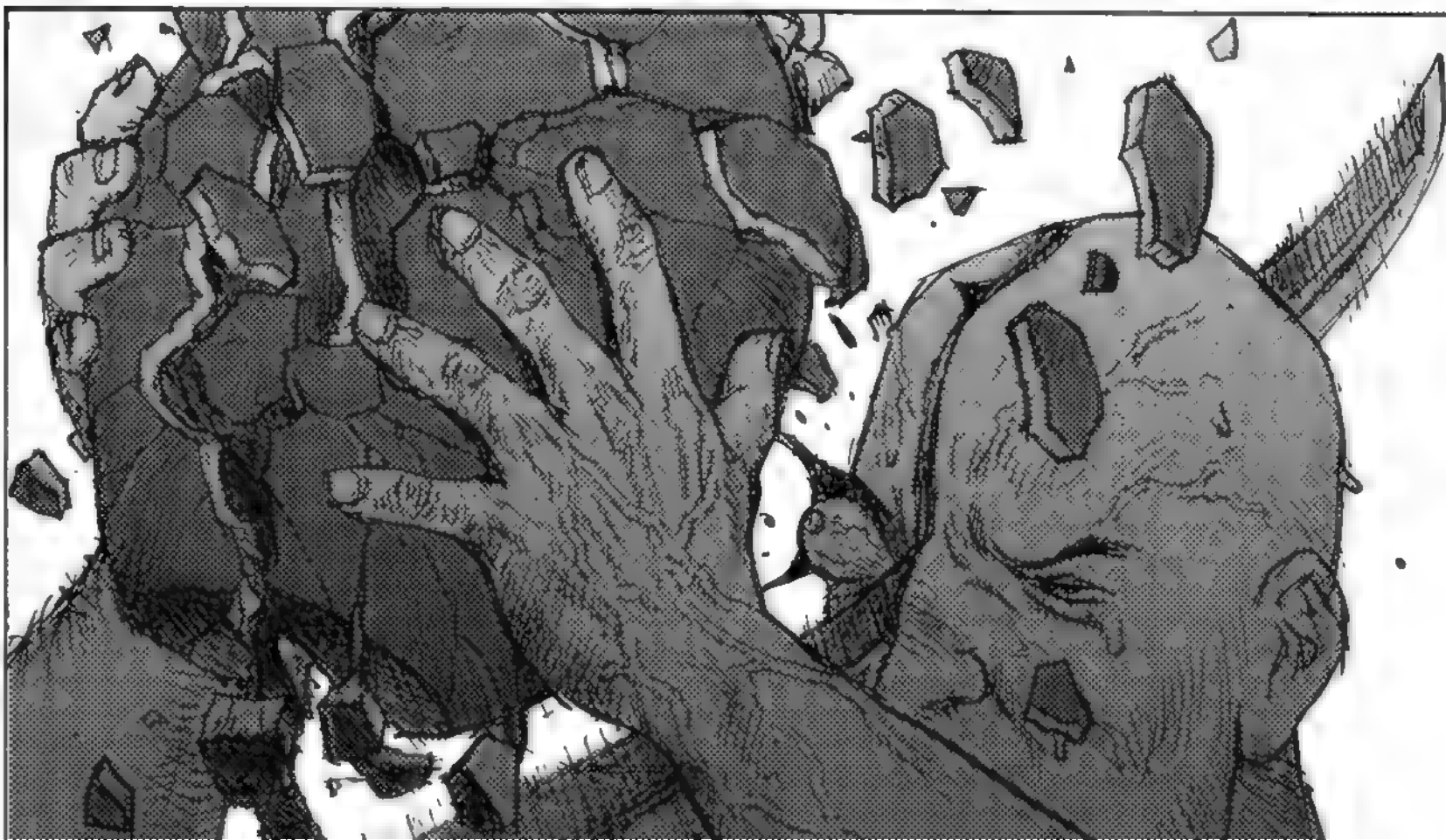
HELP...

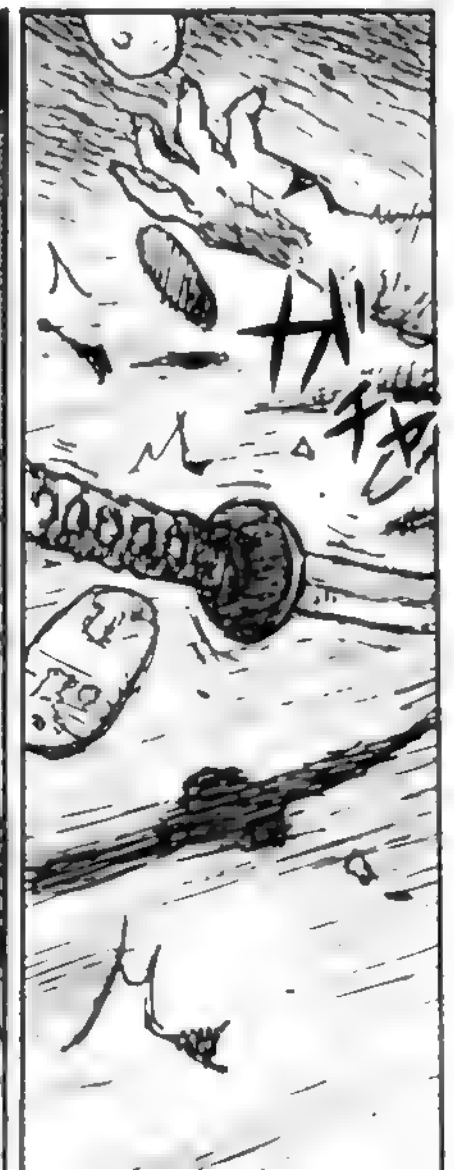
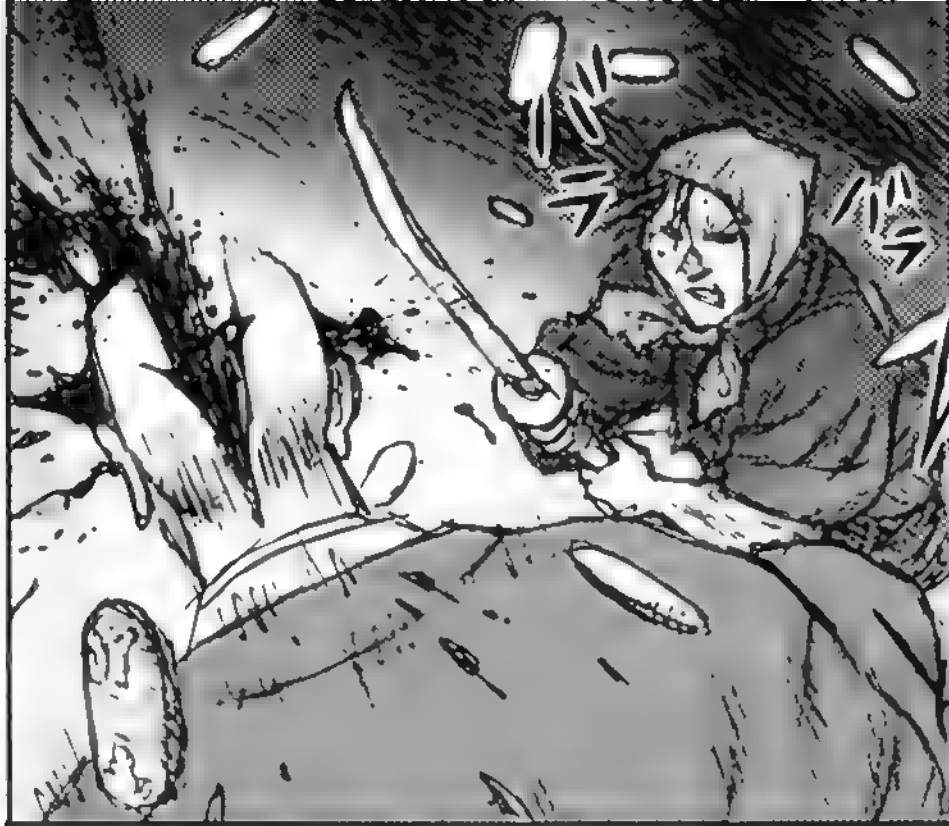
GUAHH!

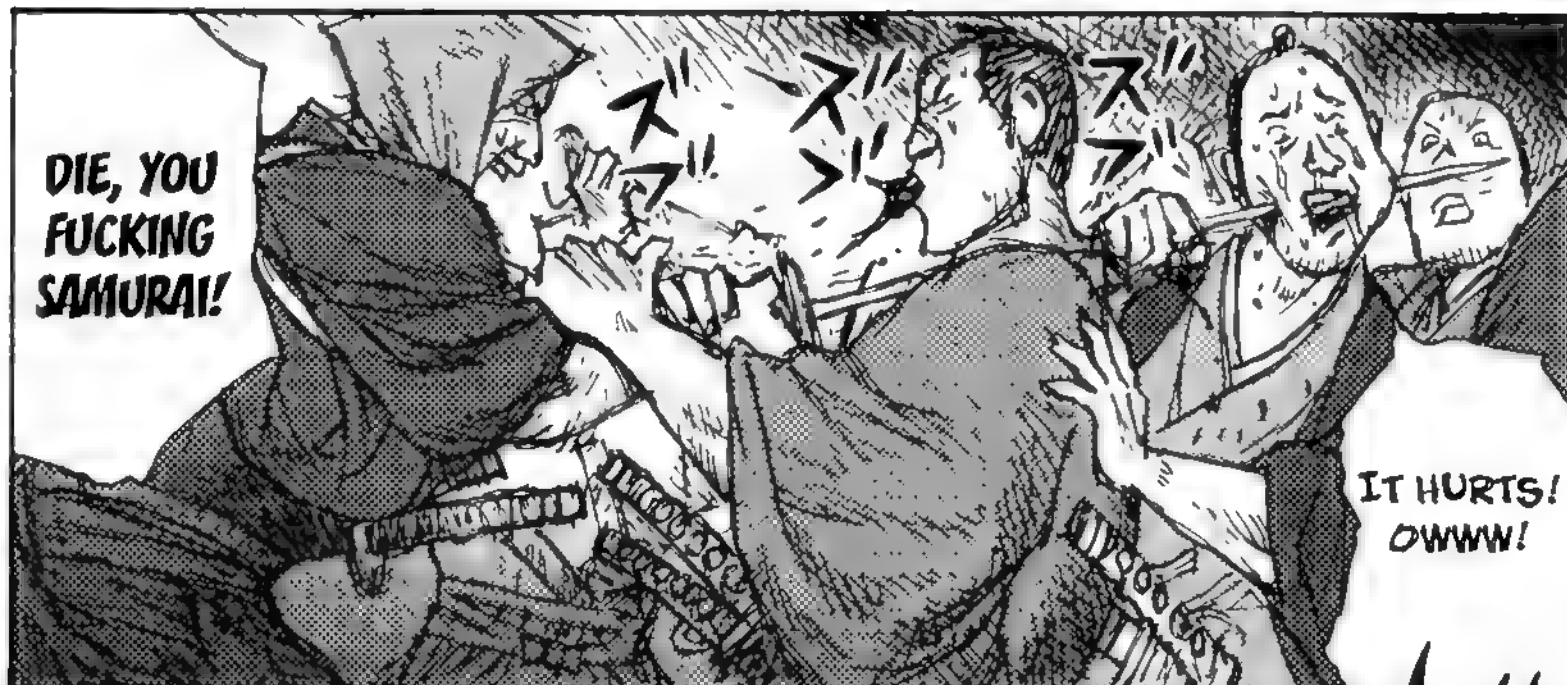
**CRUSH
THEM!**

**PIN THEM
TO THE
WALL!**









**DIE, YOU
FUCKING
SAMURAI!**

**IT HURTS!
OWWW!**



**WAA
AH!**

WAAH!



N GUHOOO! HYAHHHH!



**JUST MOVE,
YOU FOOL!**

**WE CAN'T
MOVE
FREELY.**



I'M
RUN-
NING...

HAAH!



I'M OUT!

I DIDN'T
HEAR ANY-
THING ABOUT
FIGHTING!

WASN'T THIS
A SIMPLE
ROBBERY?

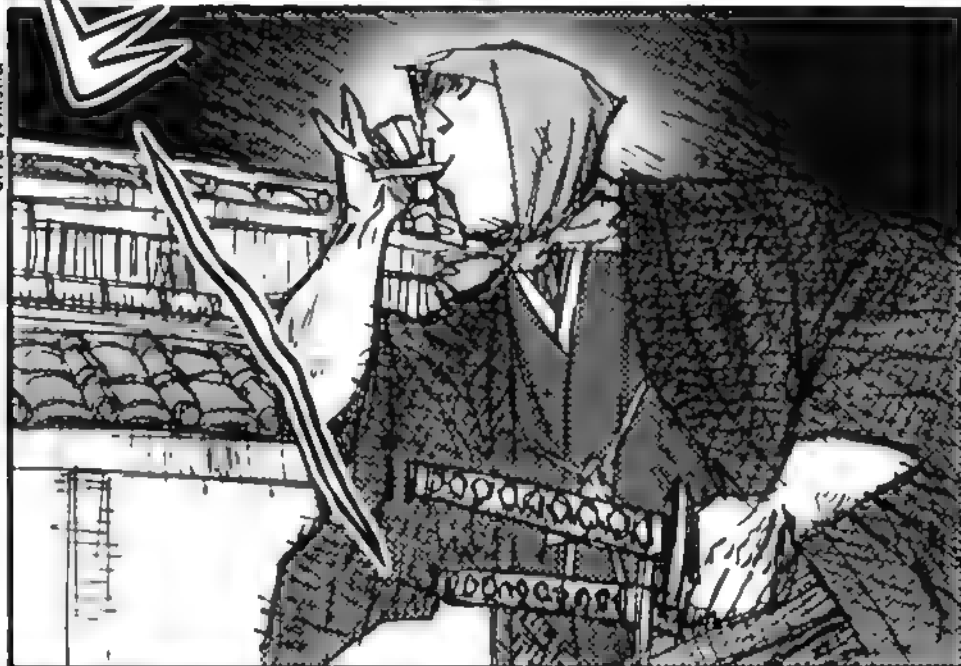


YOU DAMN
COWARDS!



OUTTA
MY WAY!

WE'LL
OPEN A PATH.
MURA-DONO,
HURRY!







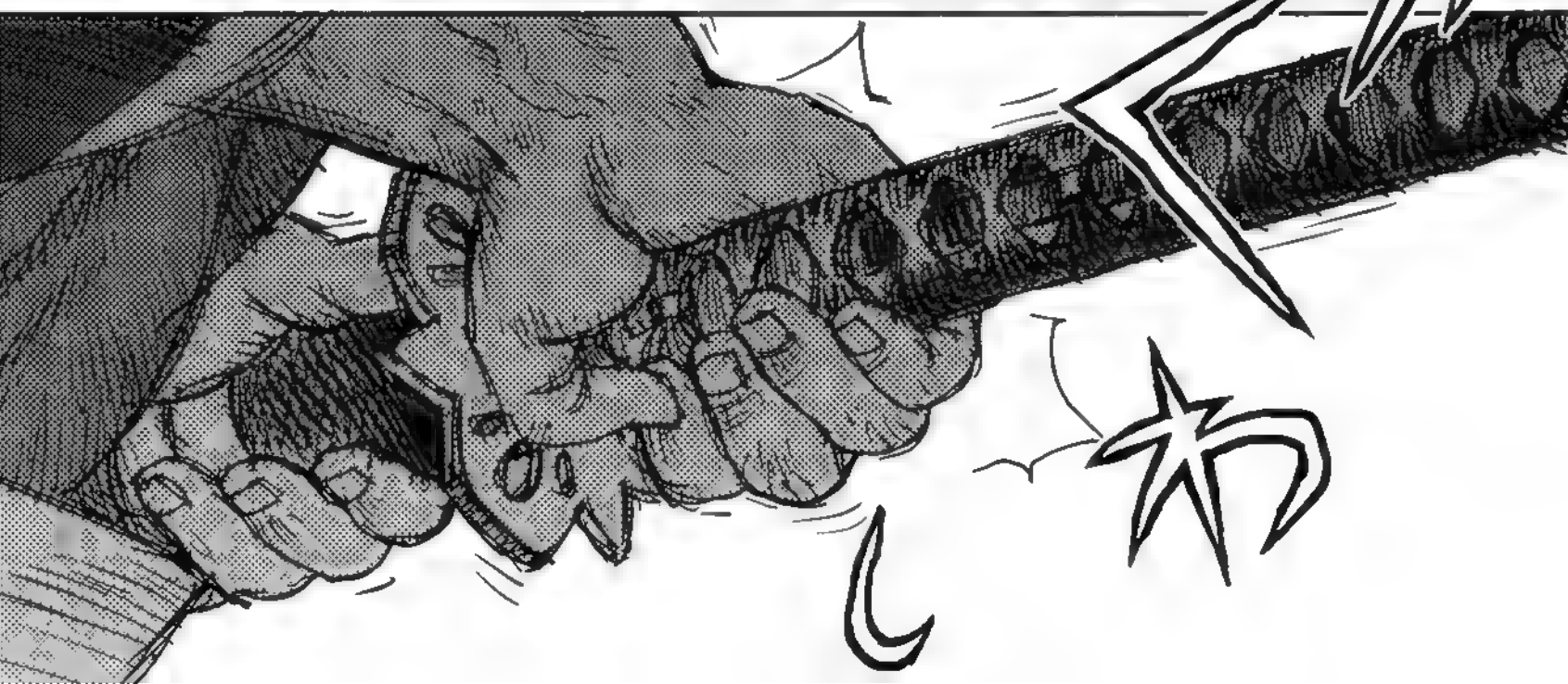


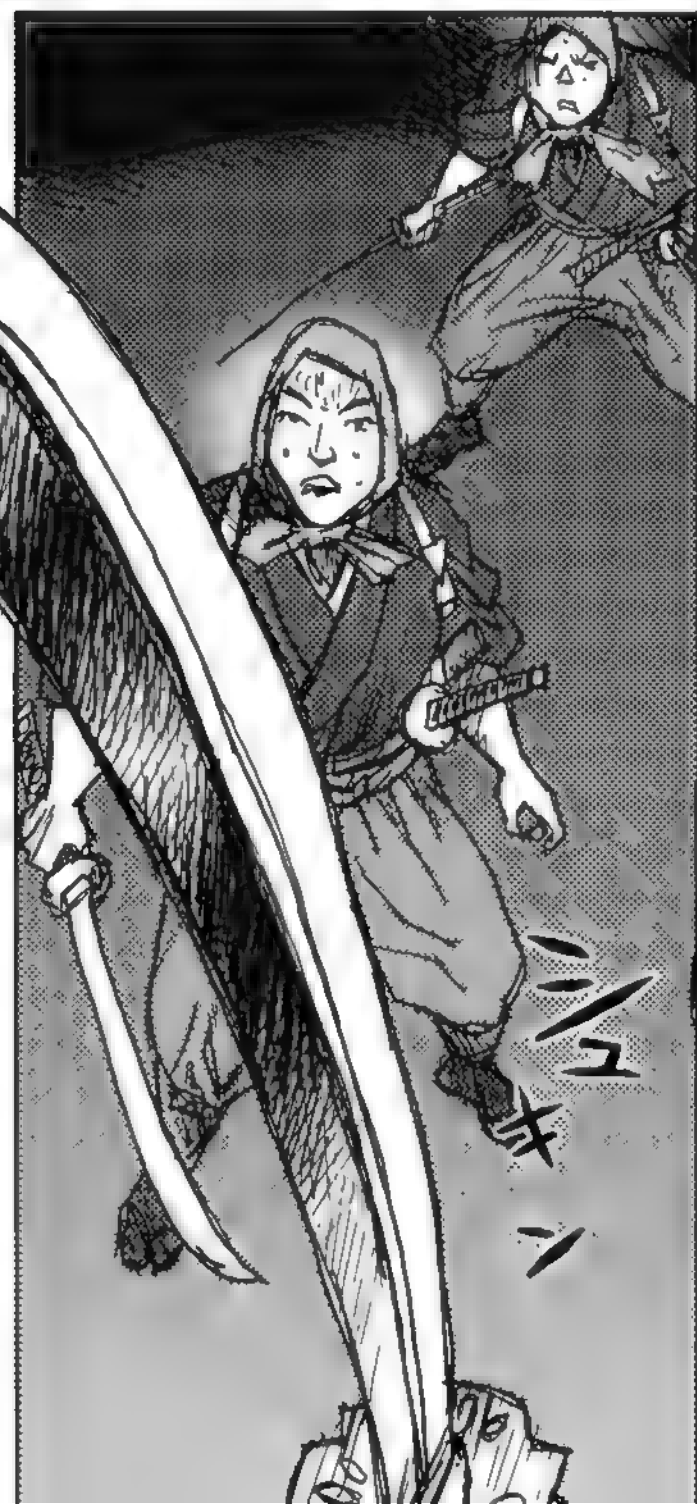
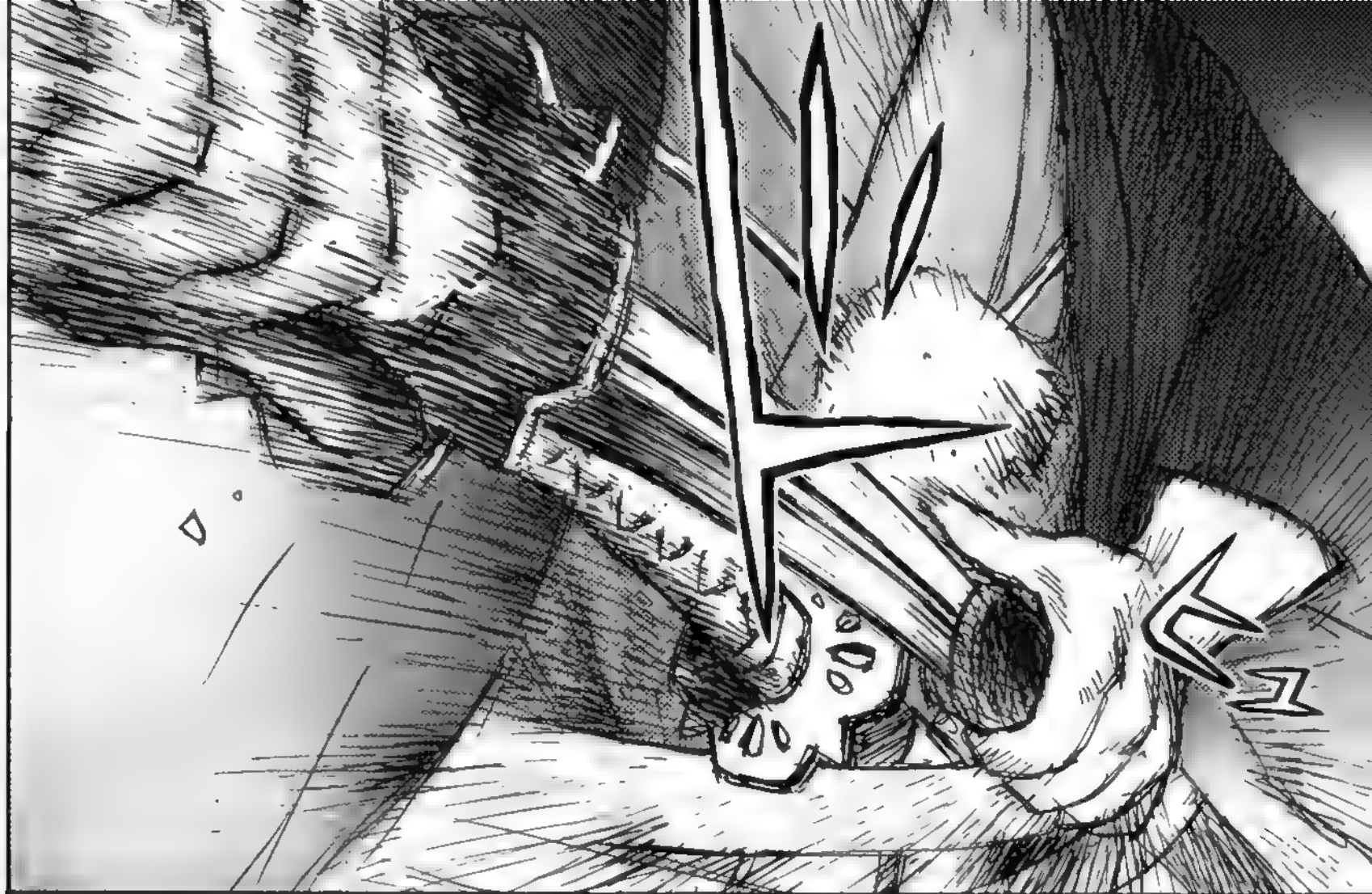
**ARE YOU
THE GUYS**

**WHO DID
THIS!?**



HE IS...







WHAT AM I
SUPPOSED
TO DO?

W-
WHAT...



WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?!

SEN!

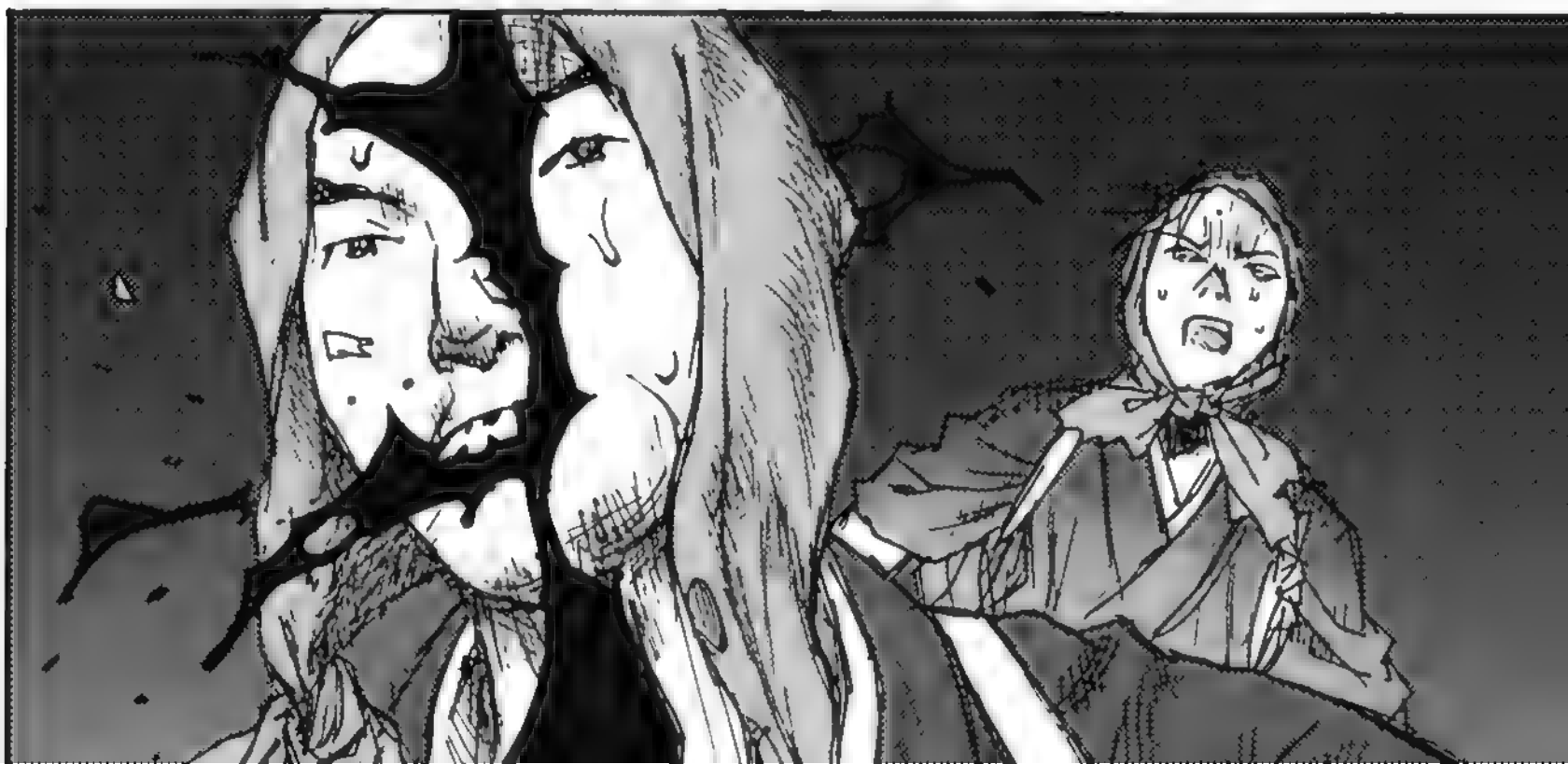


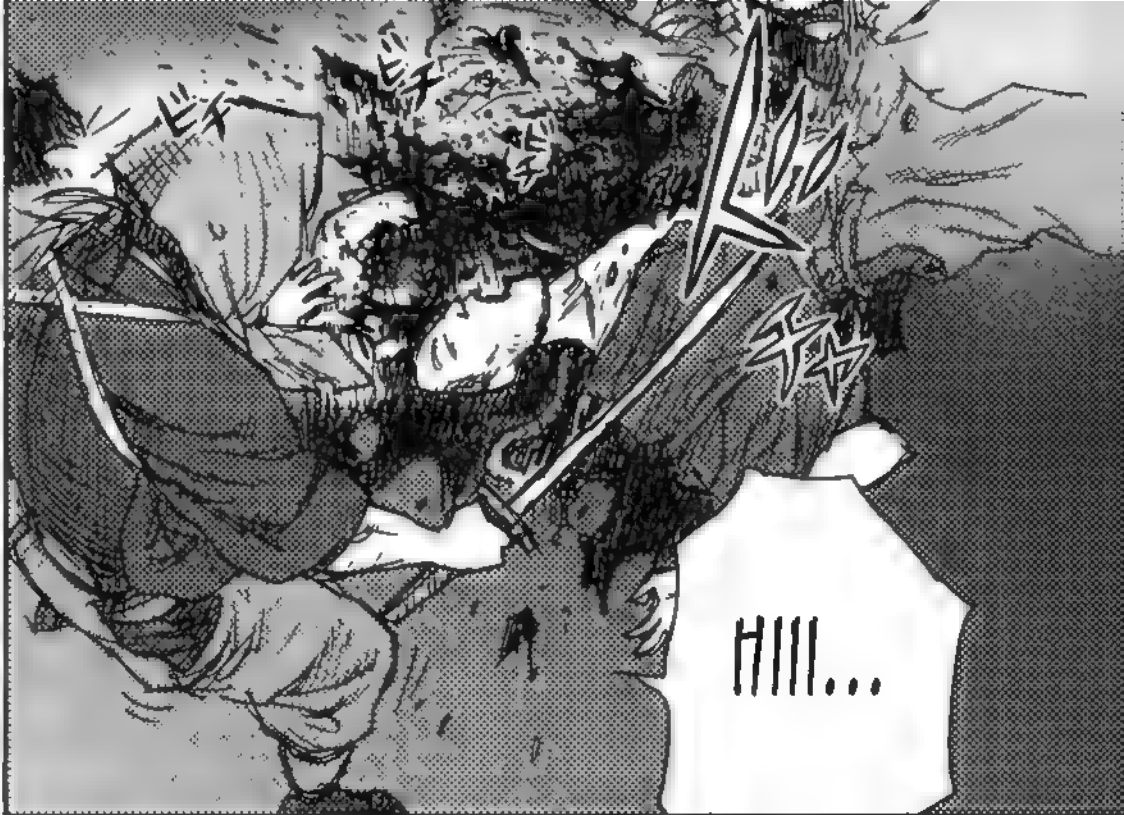
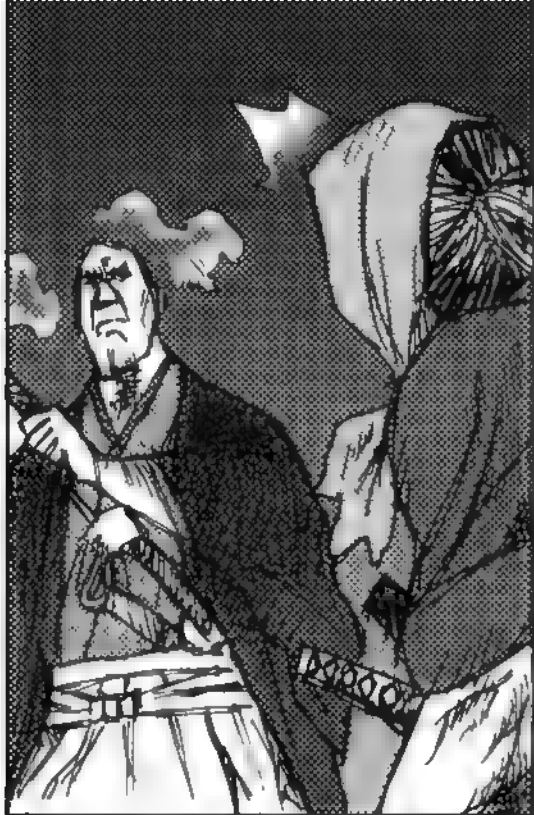
**ARE YOU
LISTENING?!**

**HURRY
AND RUN!**



SEN!








THIS IS A ONE-SHOT, WHICH WAS ANNOUNCED IN MONTHLY COMIC RAN BEFORE MATSUMOTO JIROU'S "ICHIGEKI" GOT SERIALIZED, IT IS INCLUDED IN THIS VOLUME AS A SPECIAL CHAPTER.



ANIMALS ARE WRETCHED BEINGS.






YOU ARE
NOT ANY
BETTER
THAN AN
ANIMAL,
ROKUROU.

WOULD
YOU SWING
YOUR
SWORD
JUST TO
GET THIS
RICE BALL?



IF I
LOSE
EVEN
MORE
WEIGHT,
WADA-
SAN.

I TOO
DON'T
KNOW
WHAT
I'D DO...



OUR
JOB IS TO
PROTECT
THEIR
MONEY
FROM THE
VILLAINS.


WE HELP
PEOPLE
WITH
FUND-
RAISING.

THEN
FIND A
JOB
FOR
YOUR-
SELF.




MY
SWORD
IS USE-
LESS.

WHAT
ELSE
WOULD
I SWING
IT FOR?



ALL THEY
DO IS
TRICK AND
CORRUPT
PEOPLE.

THAT'S
ALL TALK,
THOUGH.



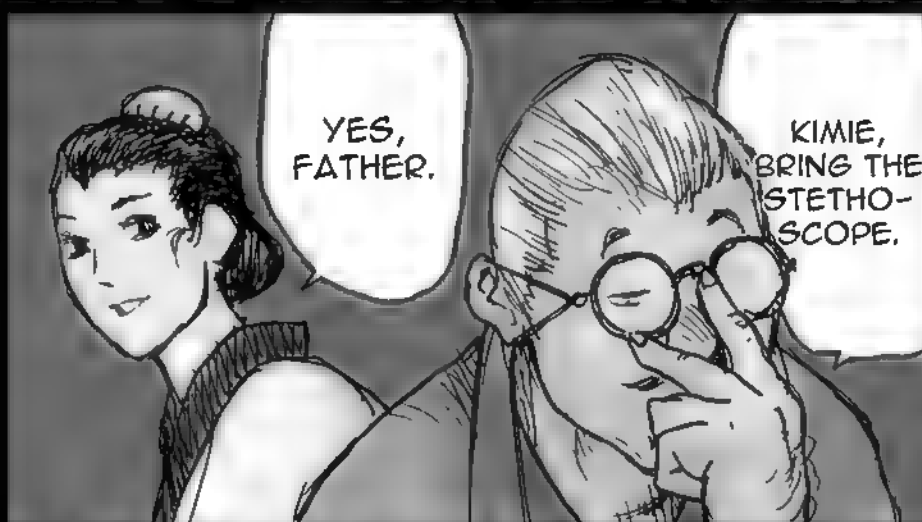
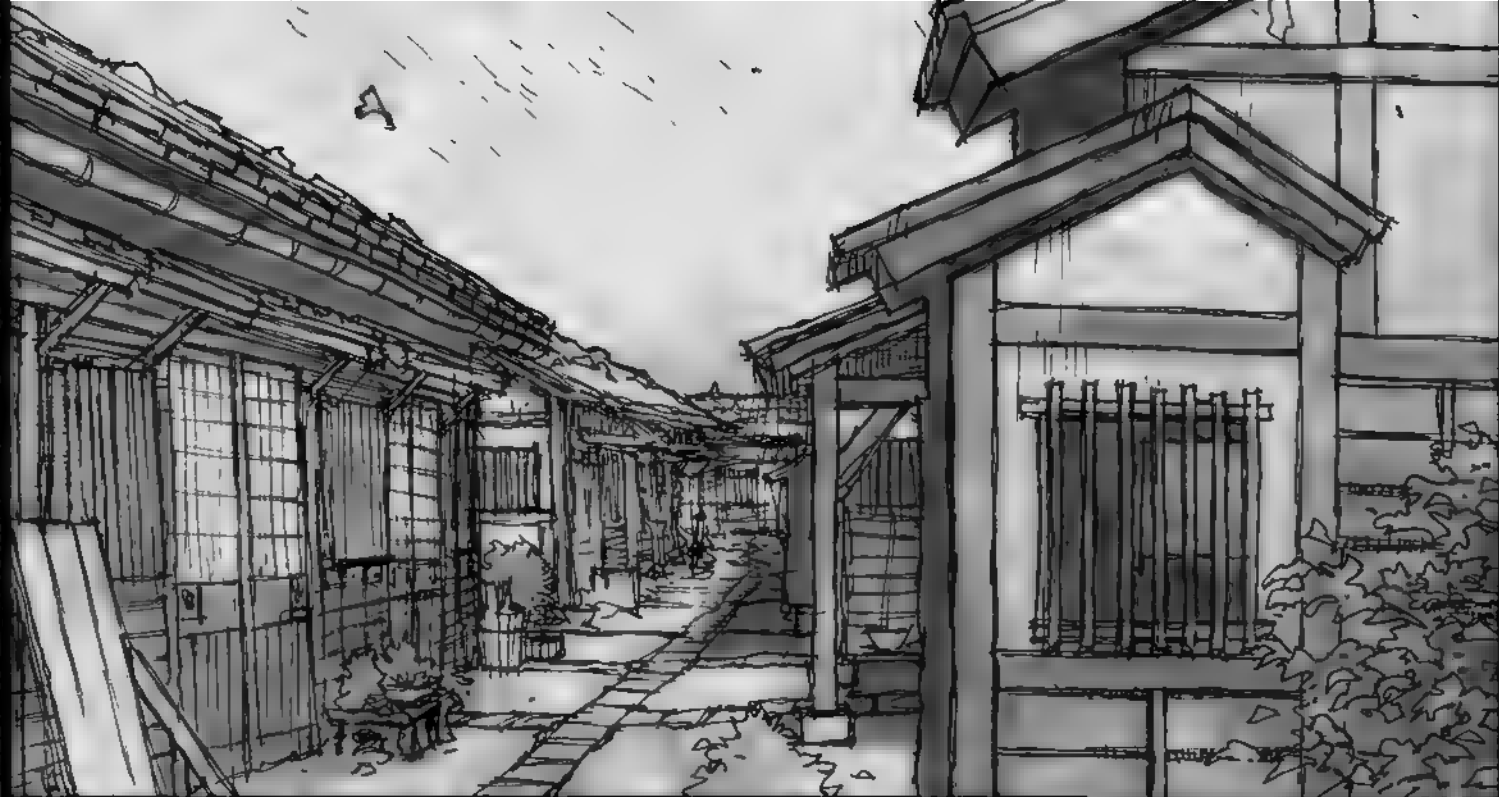
BUT AN
ANIMAL
DOESN'T
HAVE THE
WILL FOR
THAT.

THEY
TALK
ABOUT
NOBLE
INTEN-
TIONS
SUCH AS
REBUILD-
ING THE
COUN-
TRY,



EXTRA STORY:

"THE LIFE OF A DOG"





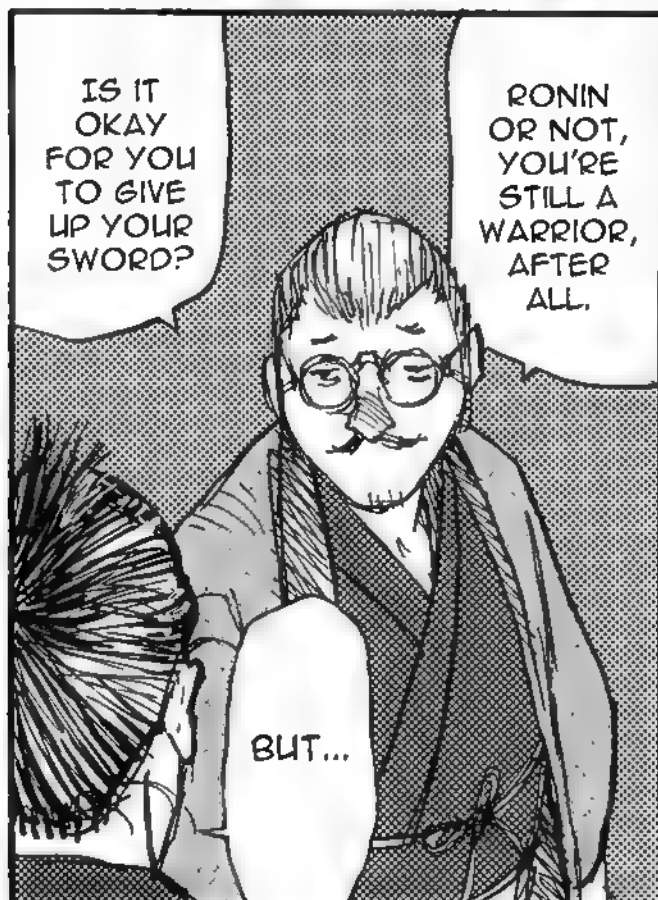
BUT NOW
THAT I
THINK OF IT,
I DON'T
HAVE THE
MONEY.

I'VE CALLED
YOU SINCE
MY MOTHER'S
CONDITION
DETERIO-
RATED,



WHAT DO
YOU WANT
IN RETURN
UNTIL I
GET THE
MONEY?

I'LL
PAY FOR
YOUR FEE
ANOTHER
TIME, I
SWEAR.



IS IT
OKAY
FOR YOU
TO GIVE
UP YOUR
SWORD?

RONIN
OR NOT,
YOU'RE
STILL A
WARRIOR,
AFTER
ALL.

BUT...



IT'S NOT
WORTH
MUCH, BUT
PLEASE
ACCEPT
THIS LONG
SWORD.

HOLD ON,
ROKU-
ROU-SAN.



WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

DESPITE WHAT YOU THINK, A DOCTOR ISN'T AN IMPORTANT PERSON.

I'M NOT PLANNING TO TAKE MONEY FROM THE POOR.



WHAT?

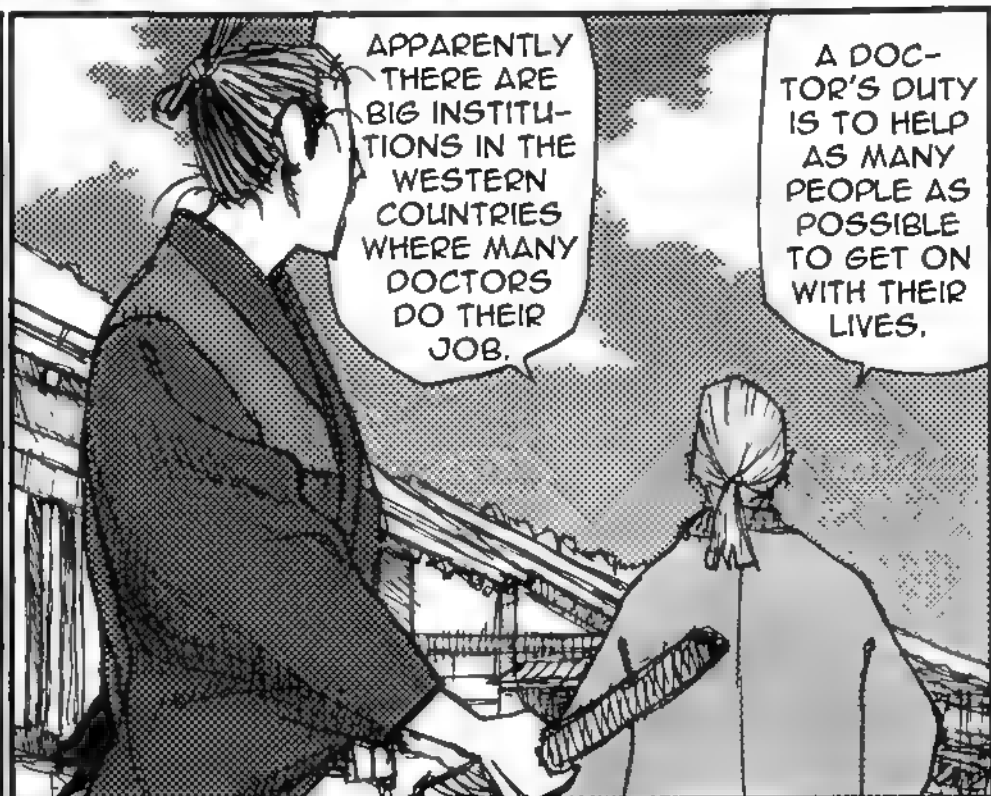
I NEED NO MONEY.



THAT'S THE INTENTION OF THIS DOCTOR.

HO, HO, HO!

IT'S MY DREAM TO CREATE SUCH AN INSTITUTION IN THIS COUNTRY.



APPARENTLY THERE ARE BIG INSTITUTIONS IN THE WESTERN COUNTRIES WHERE MANY DOCTORS DO THEIR JOB.

A DOCTOR'S DUTY IS TO HELP AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE TO GET ON WITH THEIR LIVES.



I'M SURE YOU WILL NEED IT.

"Bows"

SWING YOUR BLADE FOR THAT PURPOSE.



YOU'RE DONE, IF YOU GO ASTRAY.

YOU HAVE YOUR OWN PATH TO WALK.

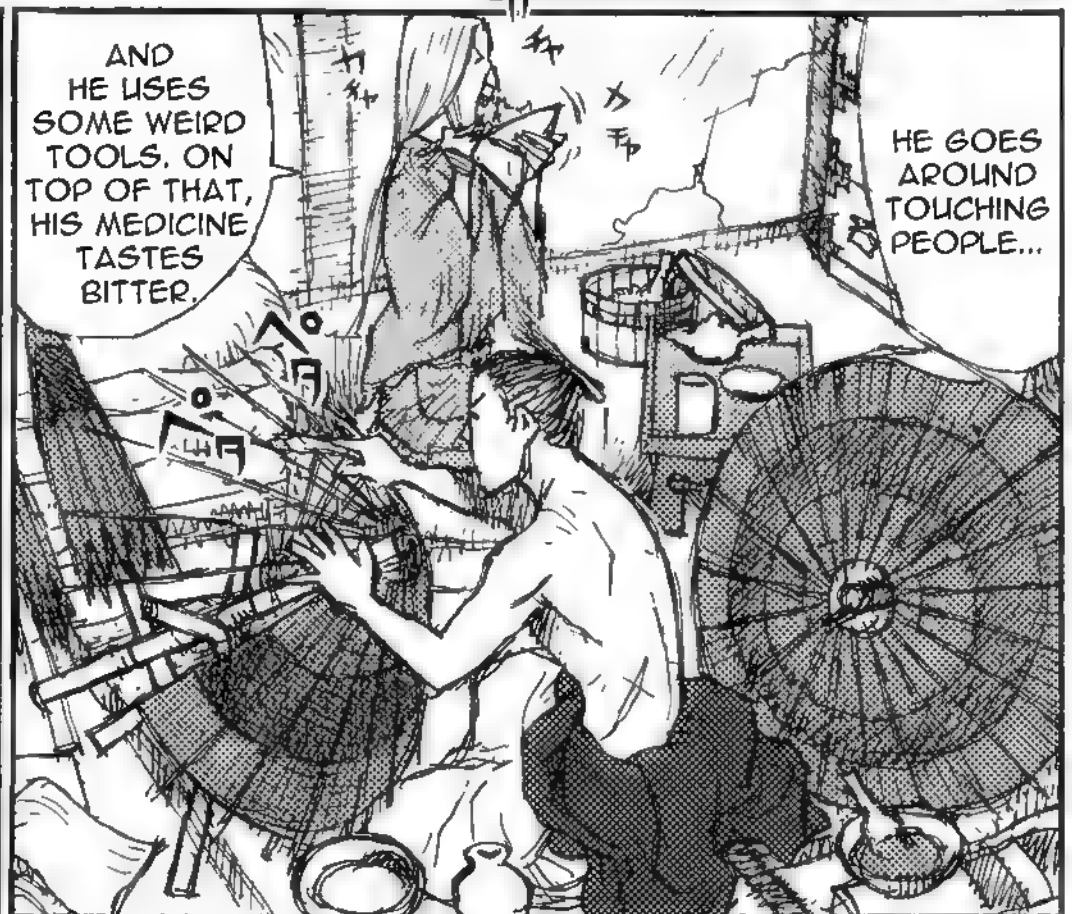


THAT'S
A QUACK
DOCTOR.



HE DIDN'T
EVEN TAKE
MONEY
FOR IN-
SPECTING
ME.

THAT
DOCTOR
STUDIED
WESTERN
MEDICINE
IN YOKO-
HAMA.



AND
HE USES
SOME WEIRD
TOOLS. ON
TOP OF THAT,
HIS MEDICINE
TASTES
BITTER.

HE GOES
AROUND
TOUCHING
PEOPLE...



YOU AREN'T
IN A POSI-
TION TO BE
PICKY.

I KNOW,
I KNOW.

EVEN THAT
IS BETTER
THAN
MAKING
PAPER UM-
BRELLAS.

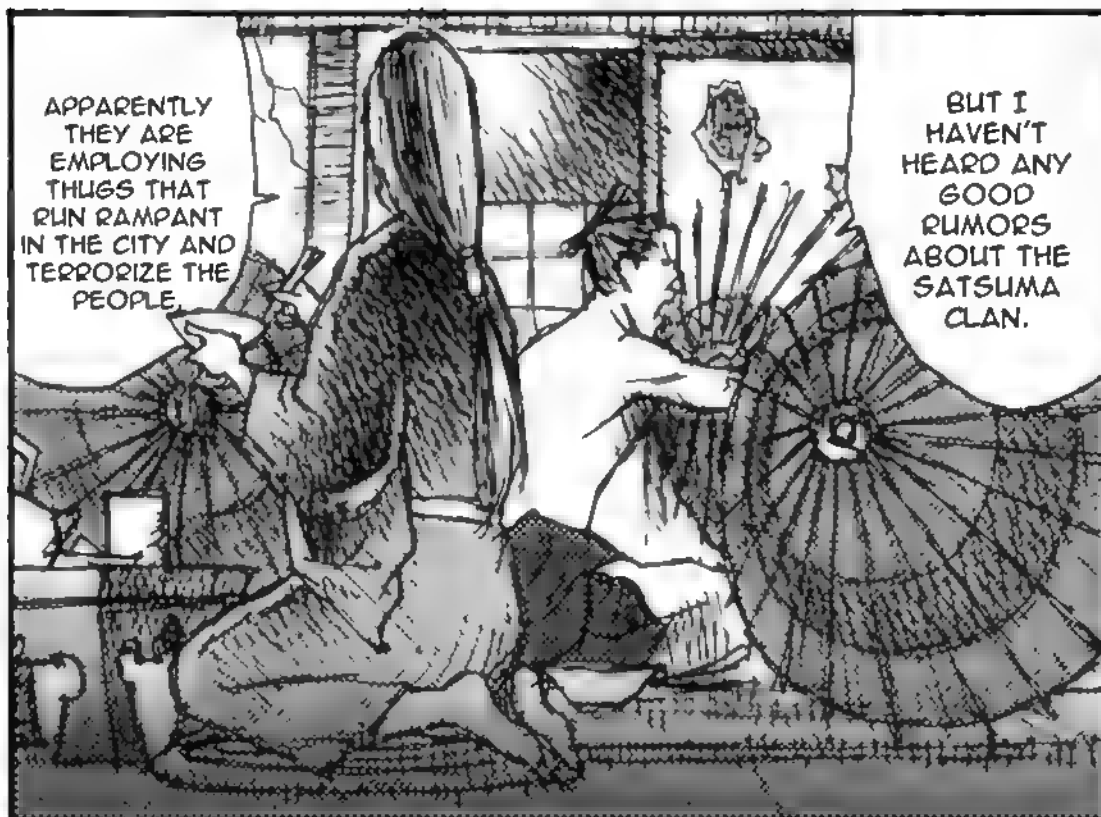


IT'S A
SIMPLE
DAILY
LABOR
WORK.

KINDA.
IT'S AT
THE SATSU-
MA RES-
IDENCE.



MORE
IMPOR-
TANTLY,
ROKU-
ROU,
DID YOU
FIND A
JOB?



APPARENTLY
THEY ARE
EMPLOYING
THUGS THAT
RUN RAMPANT
IN THE CITY AND
TERRORIZE THE
PEOPLE.

BUT I
HAVEN'T
HEARD ANY
GOOD
RUMORS
ABOUT THE
SATSUMA
CLAN.



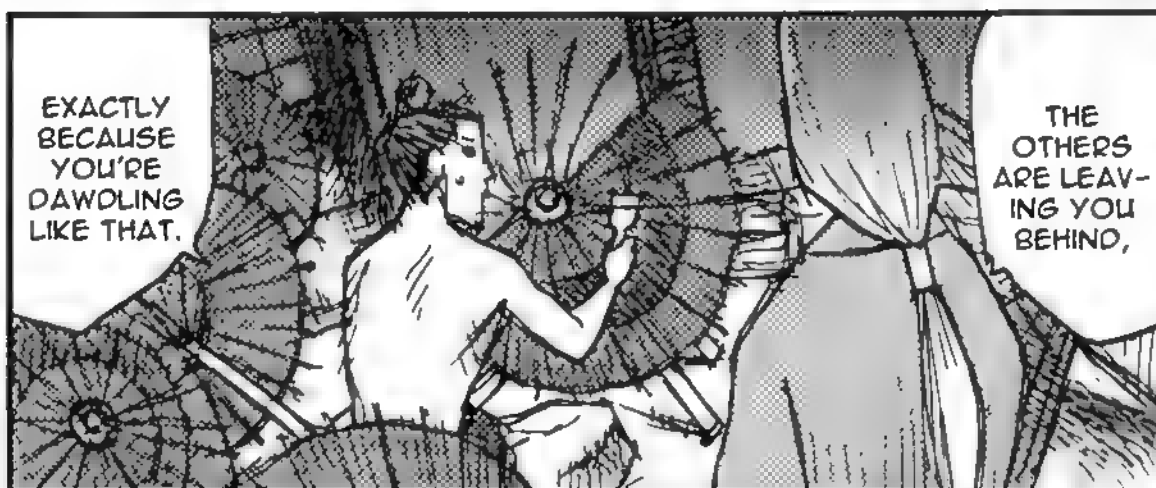
YOU
HAVE TO
TAKE ANY
JOB.

ON TOP OF
YOUR FA-
THER'S DEBT,
THERE'S THE
RENT THAT
WE HAVEN'T
PAID YET.



IT'S JUST
THAT THEIR
WAYS DON'T
SIT WELL
WITH ME.

I'M SURE
THEY HAVE
THEIR IN-
TENTIONS
FOR DOING
THAT.

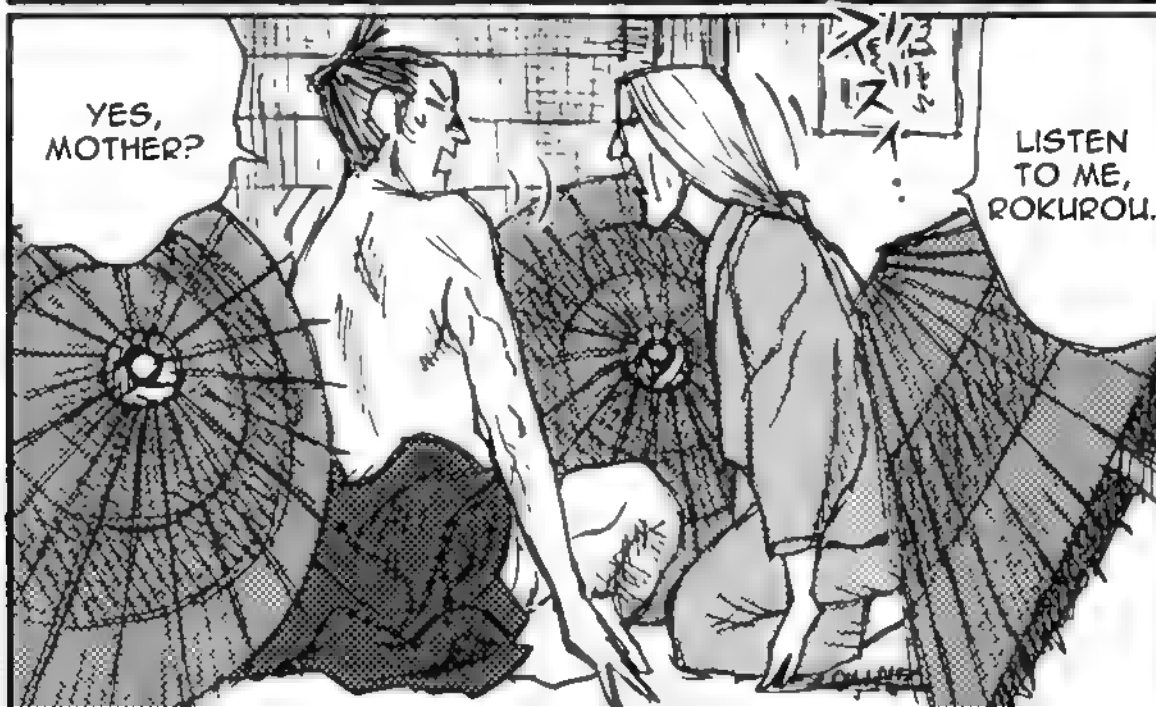


EXACTLY
BECAUSE
YOU'RE
DAWDLING
LIKE THAT.

THE
OTHERS
ARE LEAV-
ING YOU
BEHIND,



WHAT
ARE YOU
BABBLING
ABOUT,
ROKUROU?



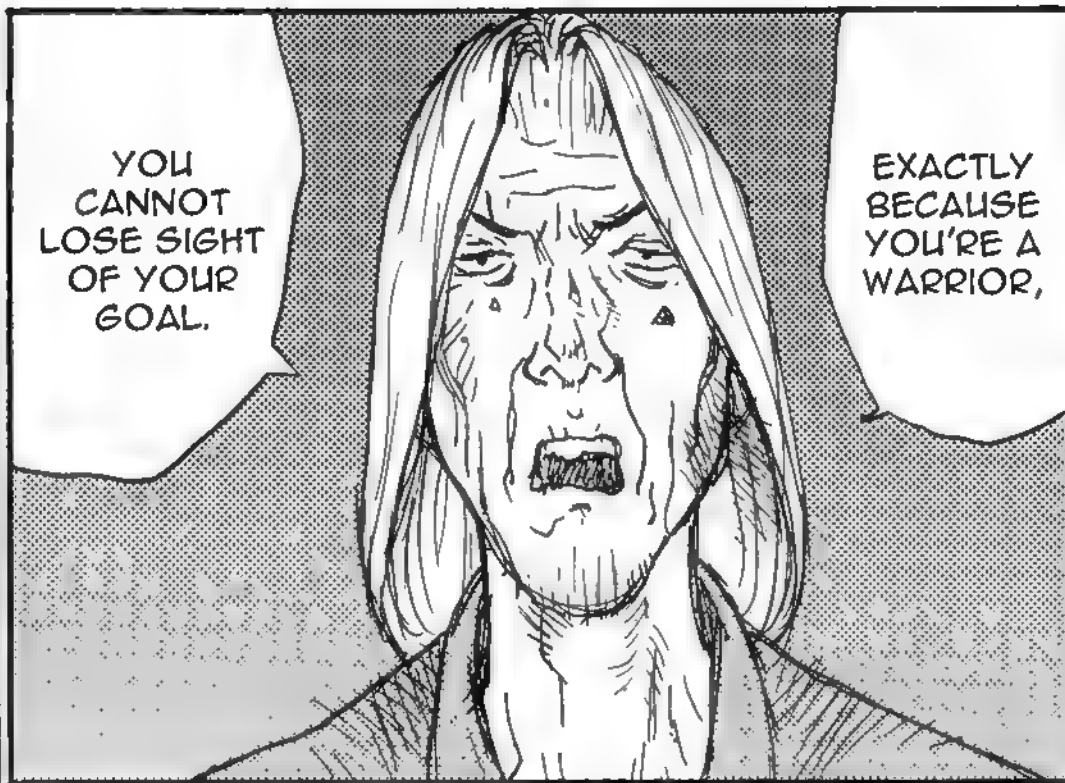
YES,
MOTHER?

LISTEN
TO ME,
ROKUROU.



AND
WHAT
GOAL IS
THAT?

HUH?



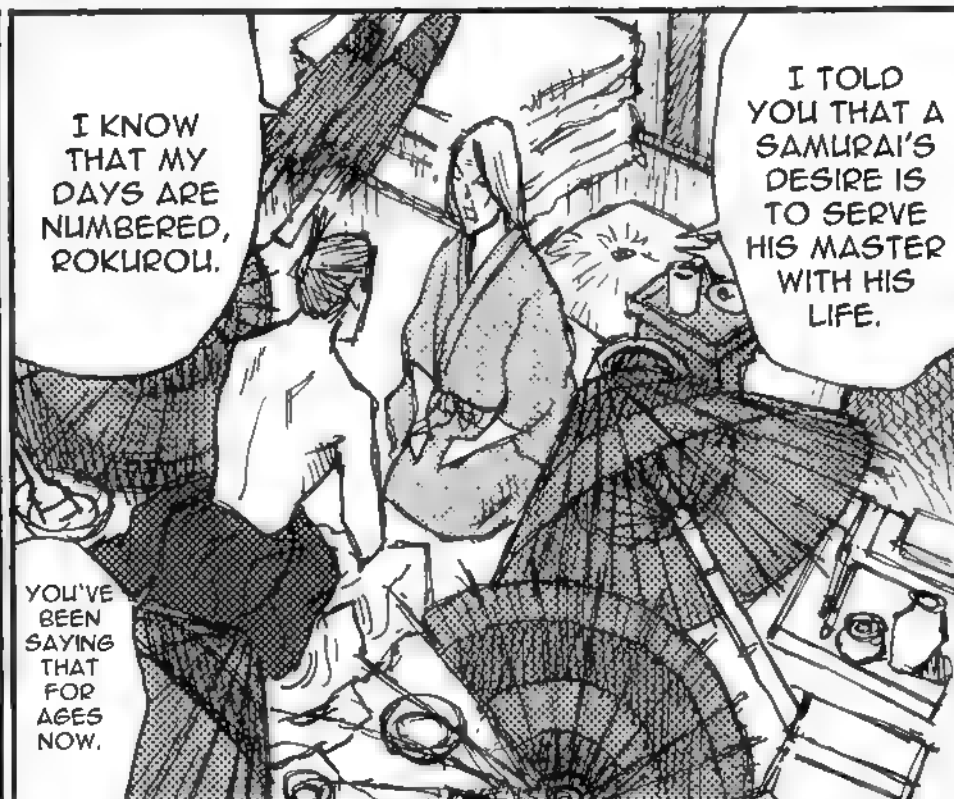
YOU
CANNOT
LOSE SIGHT
OF YOUR
GOAL.

EXACTLY
BECAUSE
YOU'RE A
WARRIOR,



I WON'T
EVEN BE
ABLE TO
ENTER
NIRVANA.

IF I CAN'T
MAKE A
REAL MAN
OUT OF YOU
BEFORE
I GIVE
MY LAST
BREATH,



I KNOW
THAT MY
DAYS ARE
NUMBERED,
ROKUROU.

I TOLD
YOU THAT A
SAMURAI'S
DESIRE IS
TO SERVE
HIS MASTER
WITH HIS
LIFE.

YOU'VE
BEEN
SAYING
THAT
FOR
AGES
NOW.



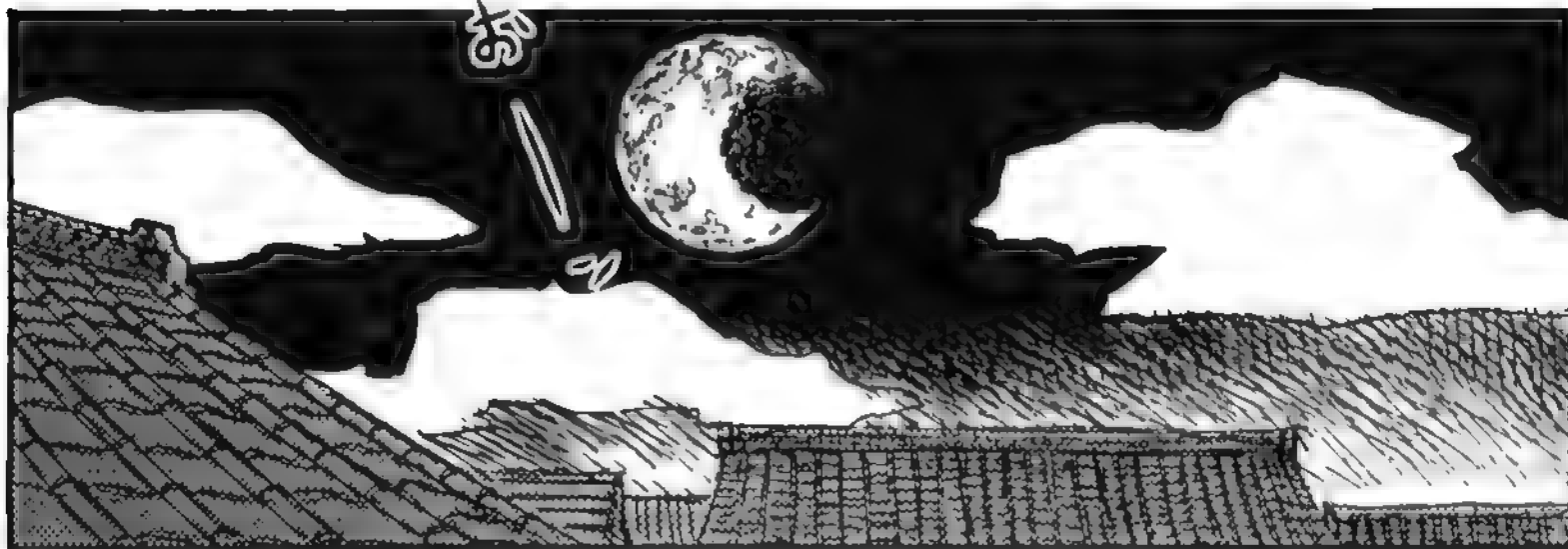
THERE'S NO
WAY THAT A
LONE RONIN
WITH NO
CONNEC-
TIONS COULD
SERVE AS A
SAMURAI.

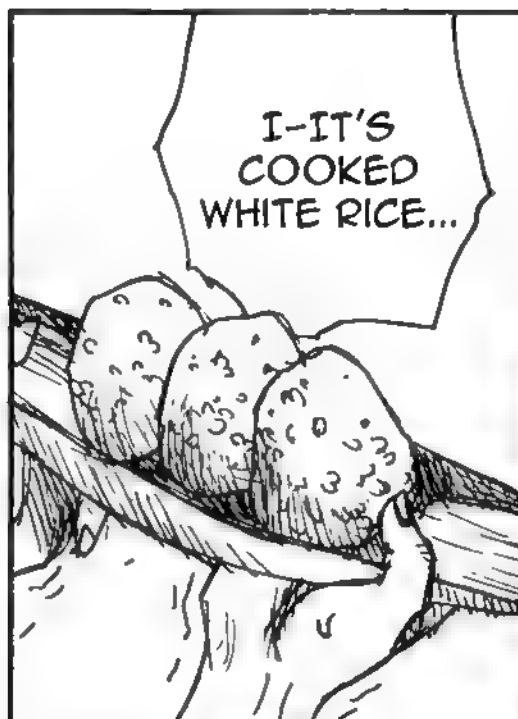
MOTHER
DOESN'T
UNDER-
STAND
HOW THE
WORLD
WORKS.

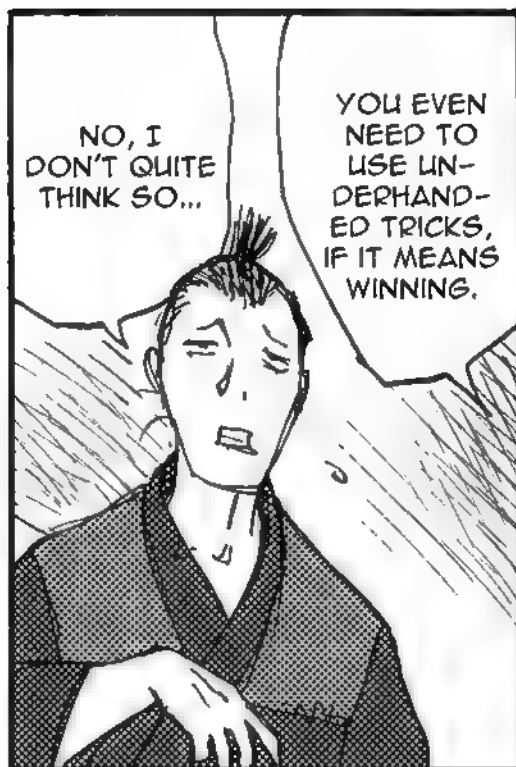


YOU HAVE
TO BECOME A
SERVING SAMU-
RAI, EVEN IF YOU
HAVE TO TAKE
THIS JOB!

EVEN AFTER
MY DEATH,
I WANT YOU
TO WALK A
RIGHTEOUS
PATH AS A
HUMAN.







NO, I
DON'T QUITE
THINK SO...

YOU EVEN
NEED TO
USE UN-
DERHAND-
ED TRICKS,
IF IT MEANS
WINNING.



OKAY...

IN ORDER
TO WIN, YOU
DON'T NEED
TO DWELL
ON POSTURE
OR WHAT
YOU'VE
LEARNED IN
THE DOJO.

PEOPLE WHO
ONLY TALK
ABOUT
IDEALS ARE
AS USELESS
AS SHIT.



THAT SOUNDS
LIKE AN EXCUSE.
THAT'S FINE,
THOUGH.
THERE'S NO
NEED TO BE
HUMBLE.

THE WAY
I LEARNED
WAS TO
JUMP ON
YOUR OPPO-
NENT'S
CHEST, AND
GO INTO
CLOSE
COMBAT...



W-WADA-
SAN!

YOU'RE
GETTING
THE IDEA
ABOUT HOW
TO USE YOUR
SWORD, RIGHT,
ROKUROU?



DEPENDING
ON YOUR
PERFOR-
MANCE, I
CAN PUT IN
A GOOD
WORD FOR
YOU.

ALRIGHT,
ROKUROU.
WON'T YOU
OFFICIALLY
JOIN US
THEN?



UH-OH.
IT'S
ABOUT
TIME.

I... I
WILL FOLLOW
YOU ALL
THE WAY!



THIS IS THE
DIVINE WILL TO
REBUILD THIS
LAND! I'VE
HIGH EXPECTA-
TIONS OF YOU!

WE'VE THE
GUTS! WE'VE
THE RIGHT!



I'LL BUY
A WHORE.

I CAN DRINK
SAKE WITH
THIS MONEY!

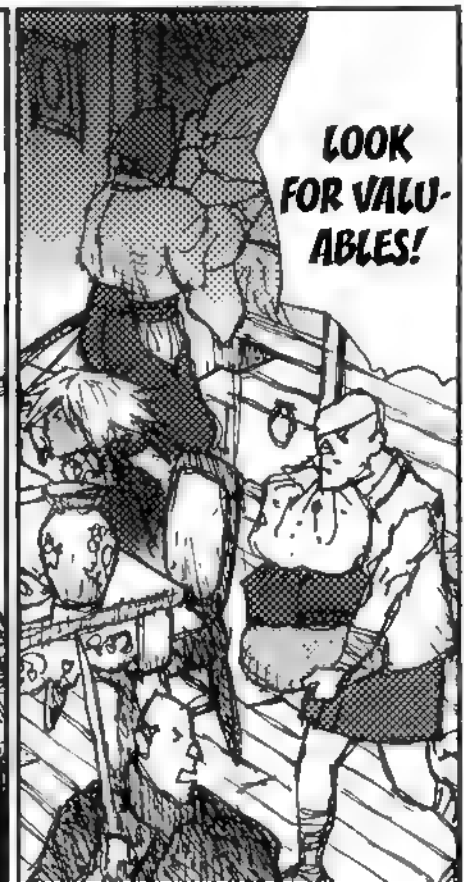
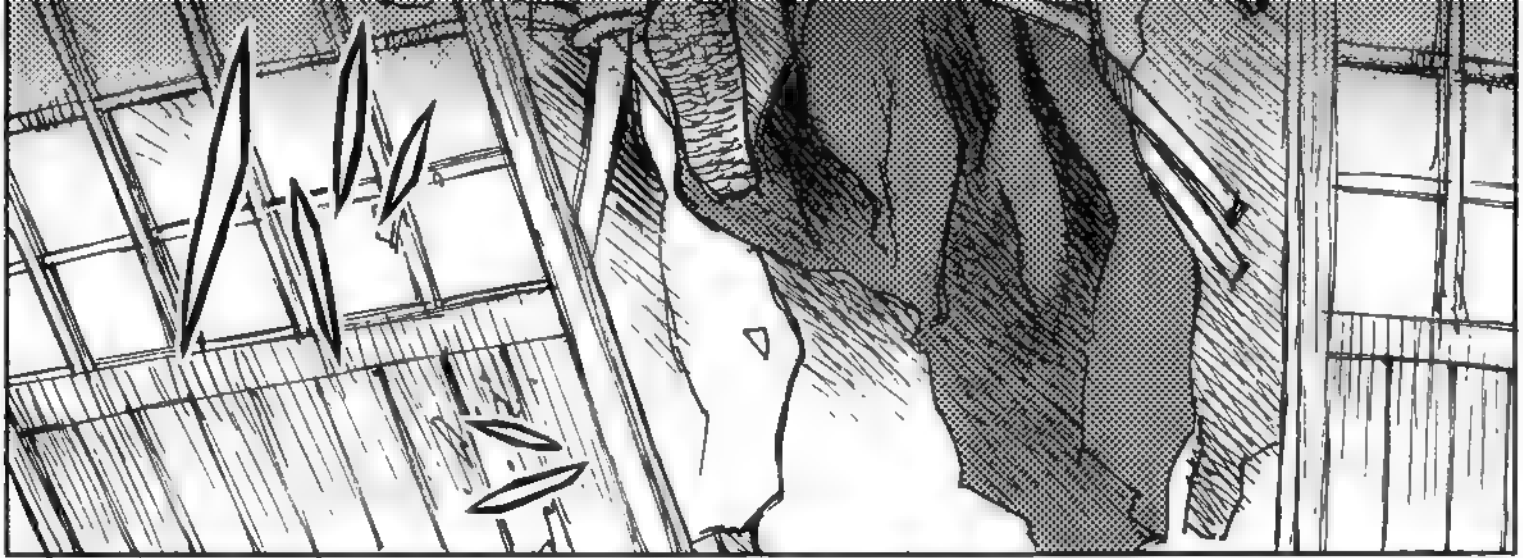
BY THE WAY,
YOUR PAY
FOR THE DAY
IS 50 MON!

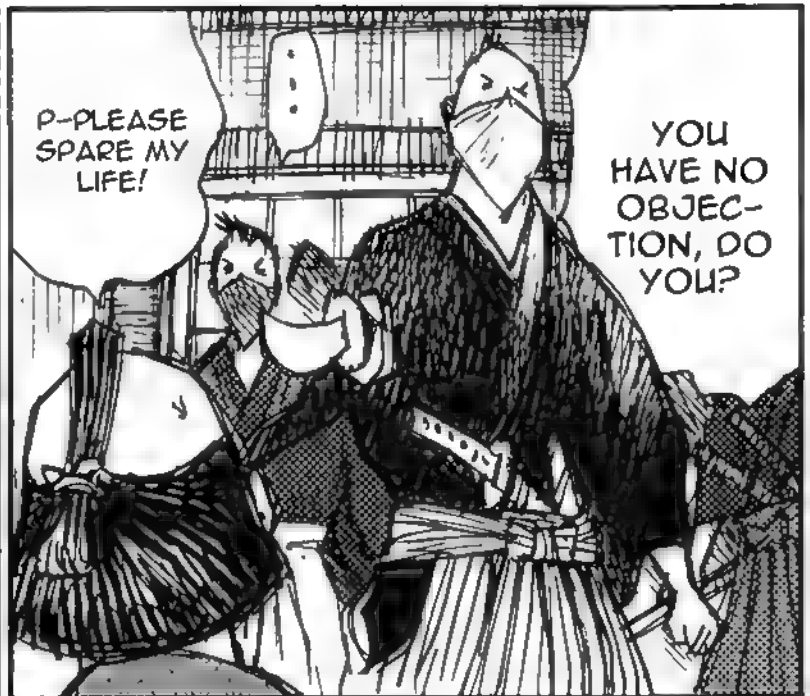
I'M
GETTING
PSYCHED!

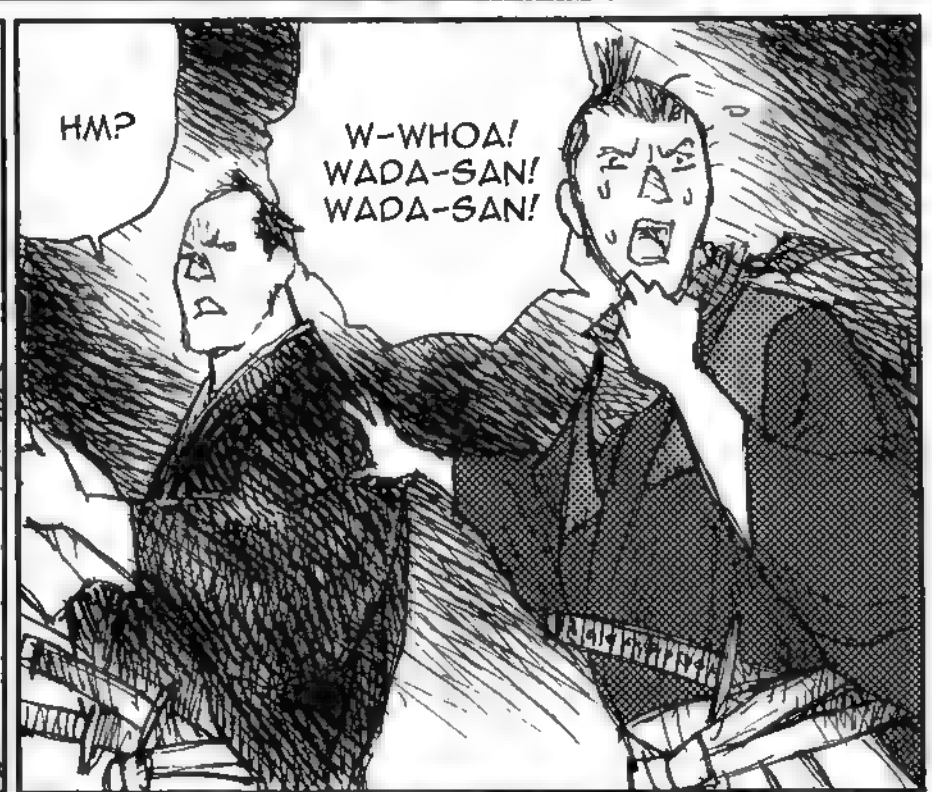
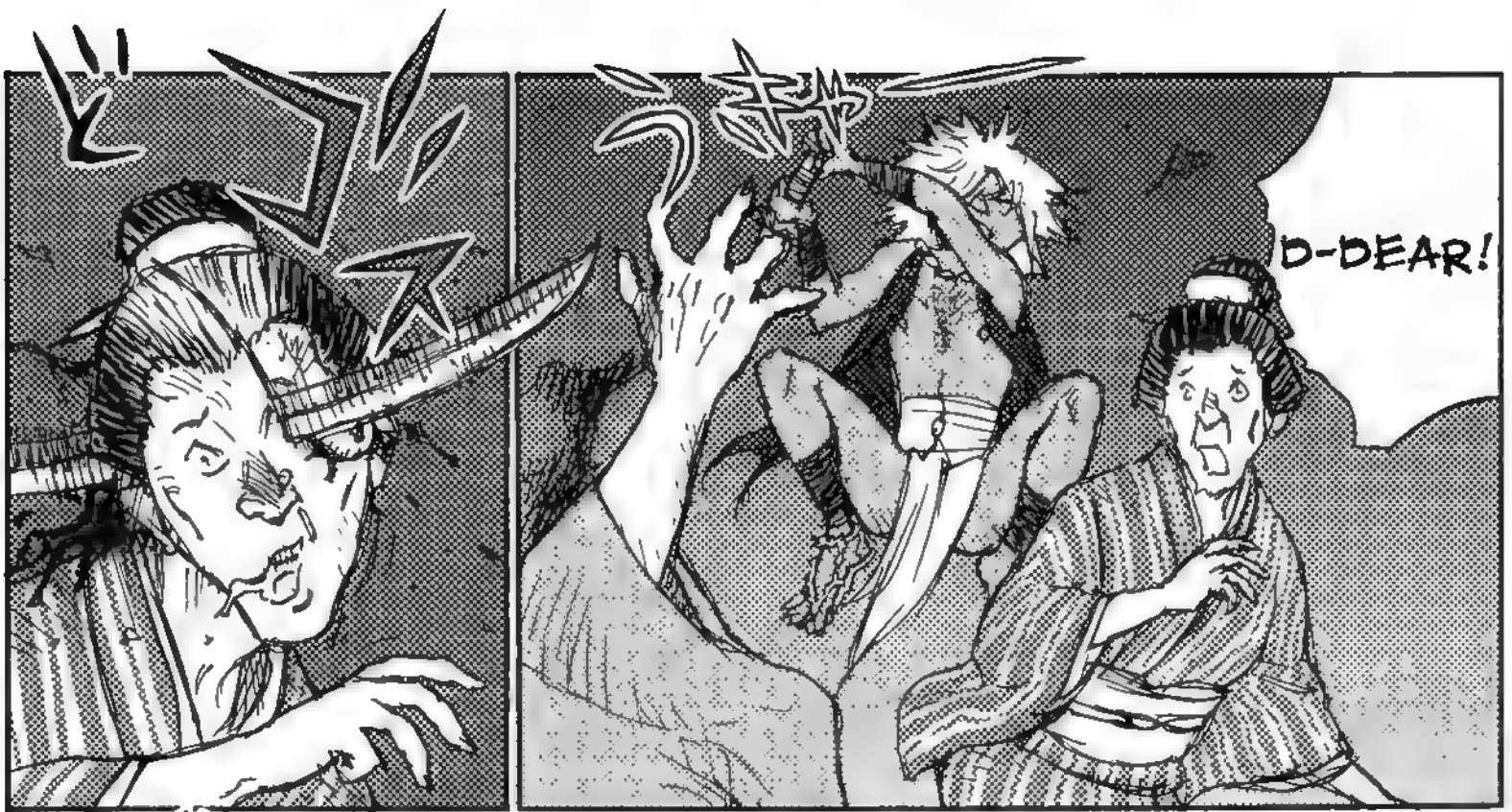


AND THUS, THE
VIOLENT "FUND
RAISING" BY THE
ANIMALS THAT
WERE LET LOOSE
BEGAN,

IN THE
STREETS OF EDO.









BESIDES,
THERE ARE
SO MANY
PEOPLE IN
EDO, IT'S
ACTUALLY
FOR THE
BETTER IF
WE CUT
DOWN THE
POPULA-
TION.

WE DON'T
HAVE THE
TIME TO
PUT A
LEASH ON
THOSE
IDIOTS.



IS UN-
RELATED
TO THE
FUND
RAISING?

DO YOU
THINK
WHAT THEY
ARE
DOING,



**GAHAHA-
HAHA!**

DON'T YOU
AGREE,
ROKUROU?



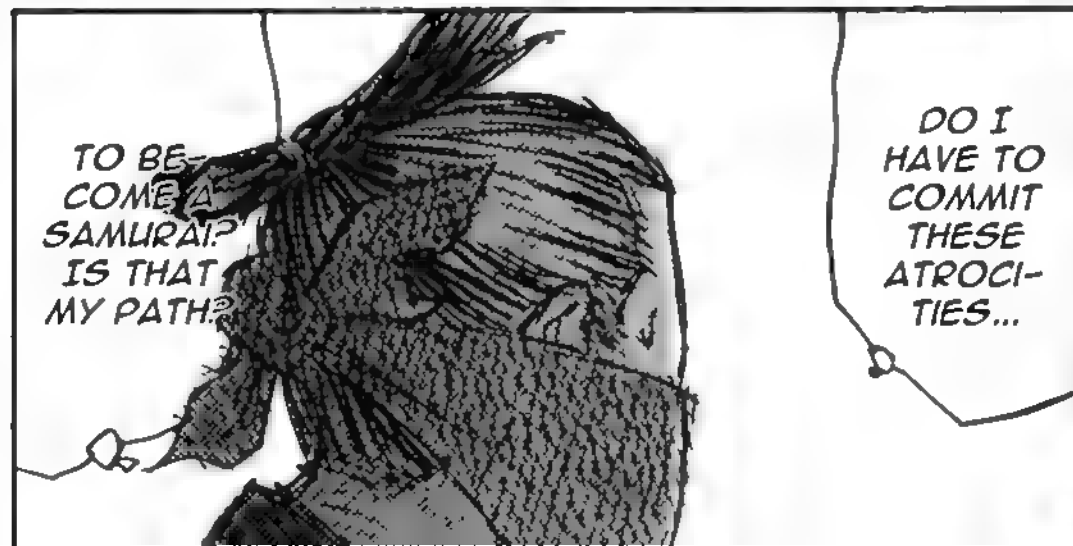
I DIDN'T
EXPECT
THEM TO
GO THIS
FAR...

MOVE TO
THE NEXT
ONE! PUT
FIRE OVER
THERE,
TOO!



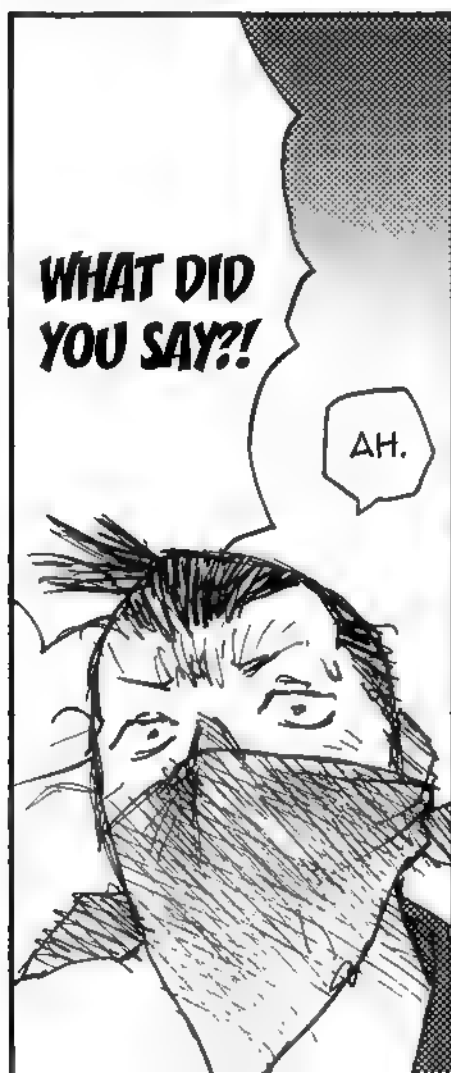
HIEEE!

THERE'S
A FIRE!



TO BE-
COME A
SAMURAI?
IS THAT
MY PATH?

DO I
HAVE TO
COMMIT
THESE
ATROC-
TIES...





FATHER...



P-PLEASE STOP!

WHAT ABOUT NOW, GEEZER?!



IT'S THE MONEY TO BUILD A HOSPITAL!

THAT MONEY IS... FOR THE POOR...



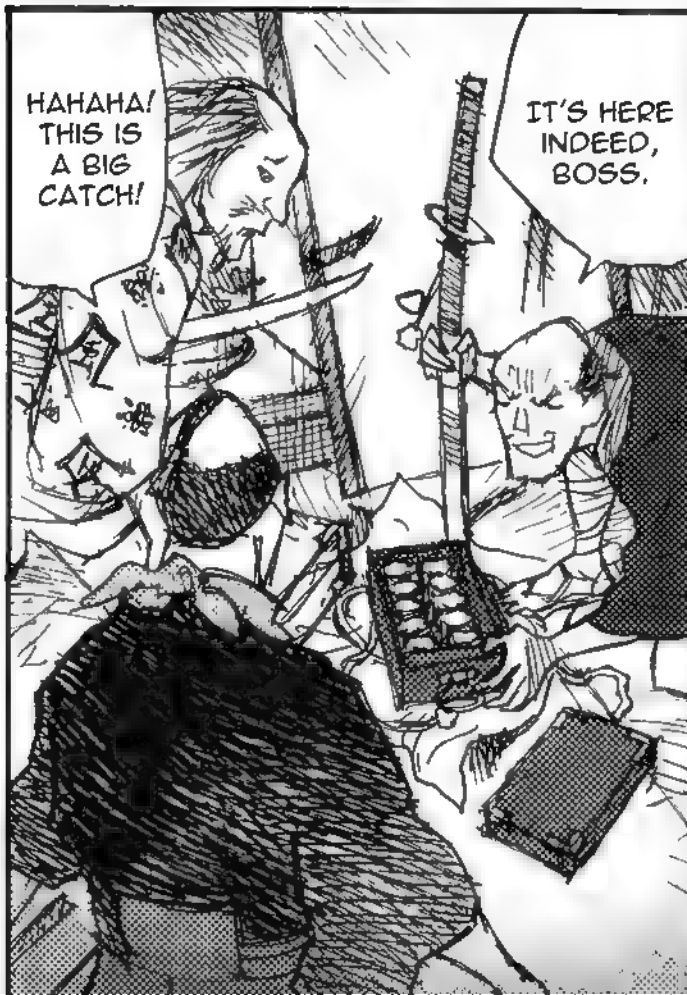
YOU CAN'T GIVE IT TO THEM...

DON'T... KIMIE...



I'LL GIVE YOU ALL OUR MONEY!

I'M BEGGING YOU, PLEASE DON'T KILL MY FATHER!



HAHAHA! THIS IS A BIG CATCH!

IT'S HERE INDEED, BOSS.



TAKE A LOOK AT IT!

THE MONEY IS UNDER THE ALCOVE. PLEASE TAKE IT!



THEN
AGAIN, IT'S
HARD TO
TRANSPORT
THIS MUCH
MONEY...

I DIDN'T
EXPECT THAT
GEEZER TO
HAVE SO
MUCH
MONEY...



AND
ROKUROU!

YOU
TWO...



SHOULD
WE DROP
IT THERE?

AN AC-
QUAIN-
TANCE'S
PLACE IS
AROUND
THE
CORNER.

AL-
RIGHT,
I'LL
LEAVE
IT TO
YOU.



CHANGE
THE SIGN
TO SURUGA
STREET'S
STORE!
HURRY UP!

I'VE HEARD
THE CITY
GUARDS
ARE RUSH-
ING THIS
WAY.

YES?

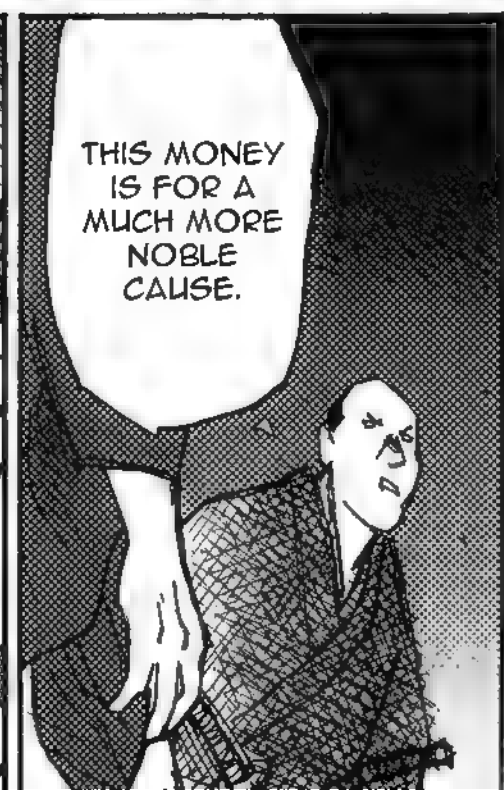


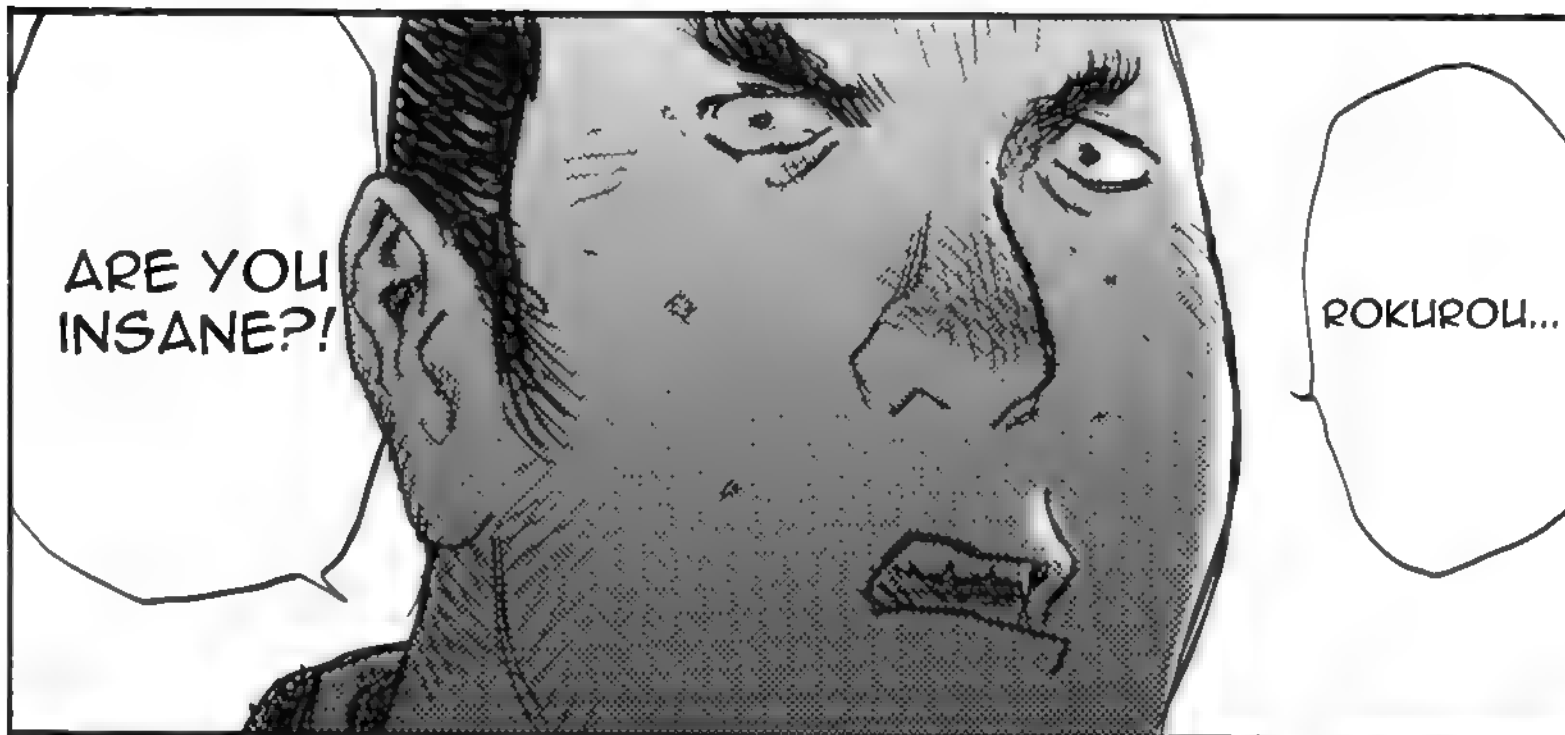
WE'LL
REGROUP
WITH THE
REST
AFTER-
WARDS.

YOU GUYS
HELP ME
CARRY THE
MONEY TO
THE HOUSE.

LET'S
GO!









HAH...



HAHAHAHA!

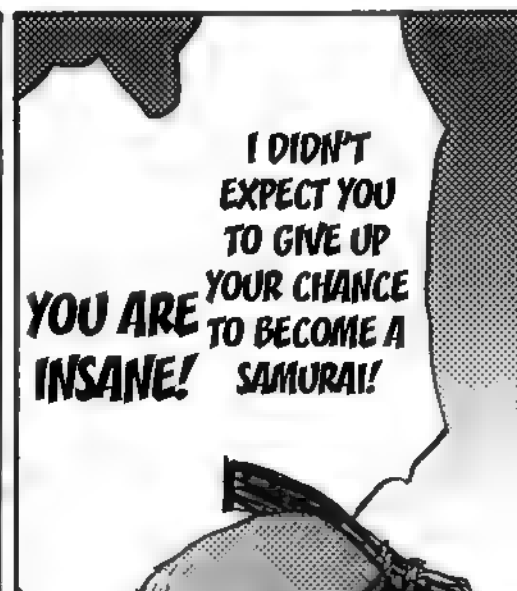


HA HAHAHA!



THIS CITY... THE PEOPLE ACROSS THIS COUNTRY ARE ALL MAD!

THIS IS A RELIEF! WE AREN'T THE ONLY ONES INSANE HERE!



I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO GIVE UP YOUR CHANCE TO BECOME A SAMURAI!
YOU ARE INSANE!



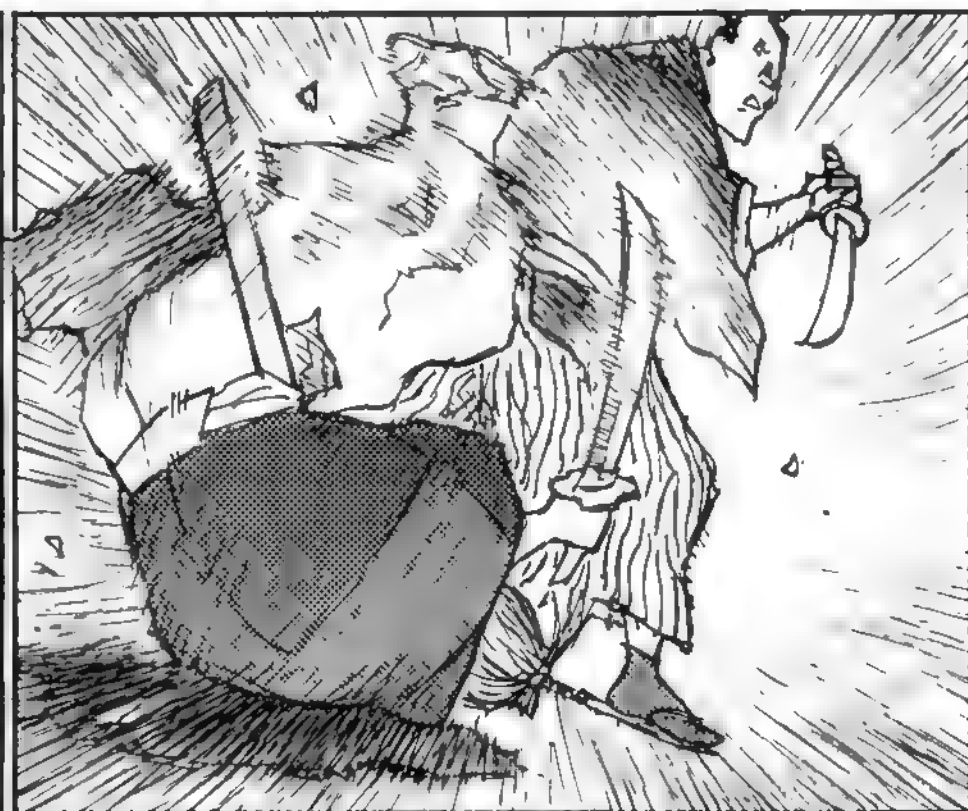
ISN'T THIS HILARIOUS!? YOU LOT! LAUGH AS MUCH AS YOU WANT! HAHAHA-HAHA!

DO YOU KNOW WHY I CAN'T STOP LAUGHING? BECAUSE THERE ISN'T A SINGLE SOUL WHO HAS RETAINED THEIR SANITY!



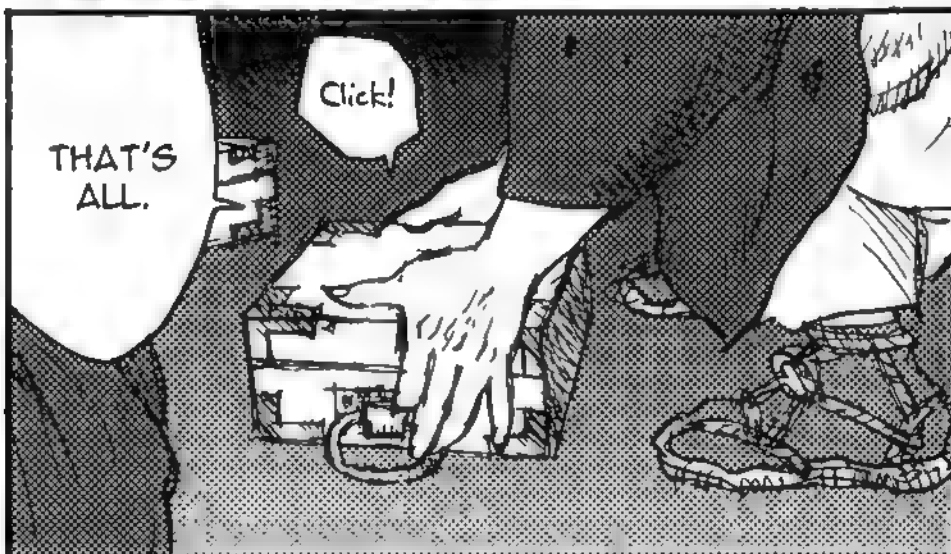
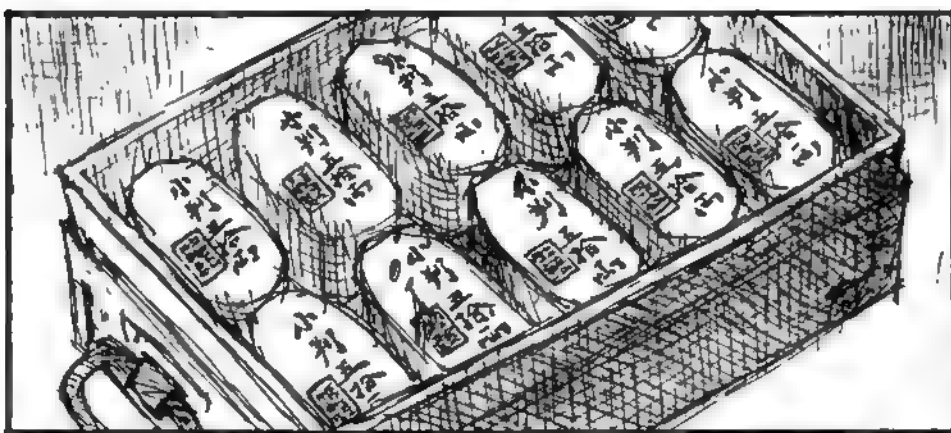
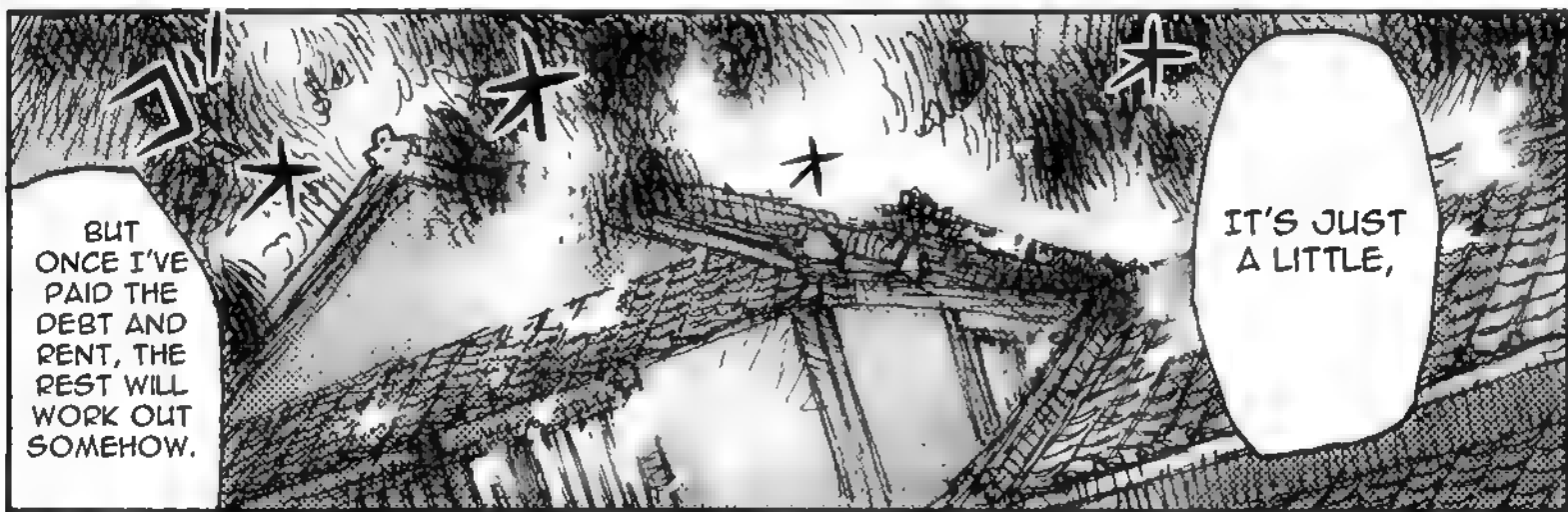














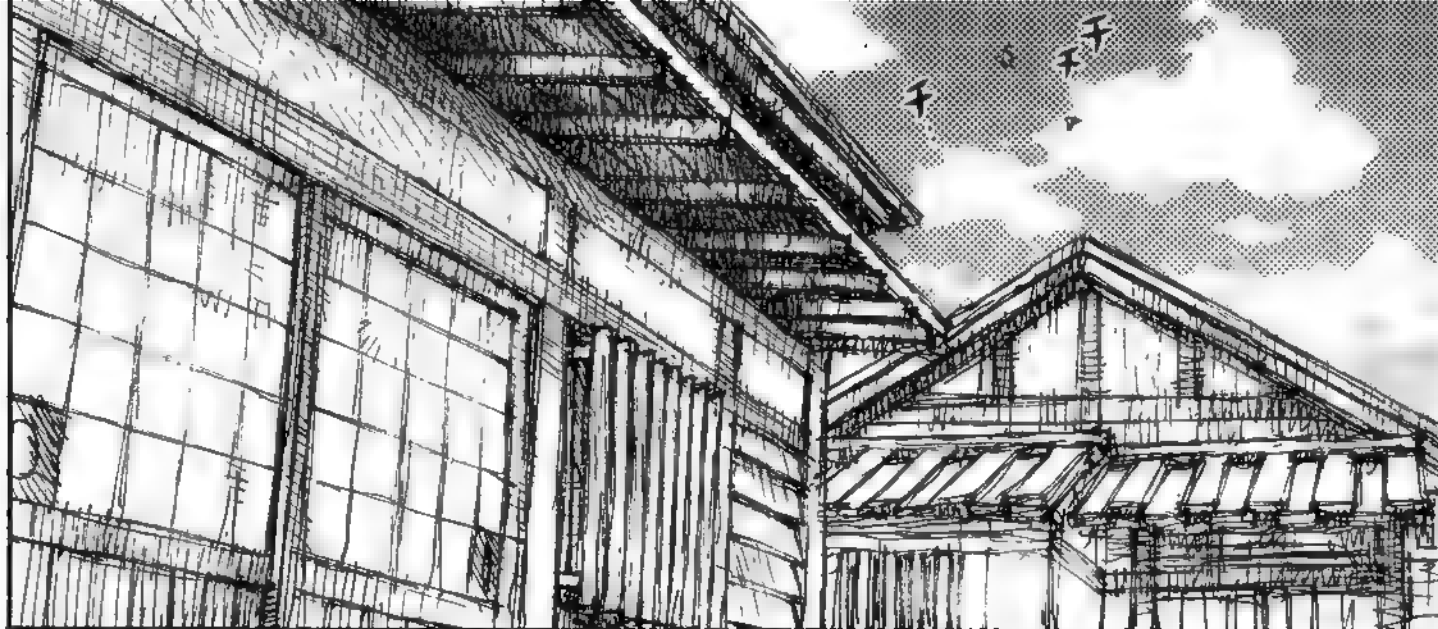
LOOKS LIKE
SOMEONE
ELSE IS
GOING TO
TAKE MY
JOB AGAIN.

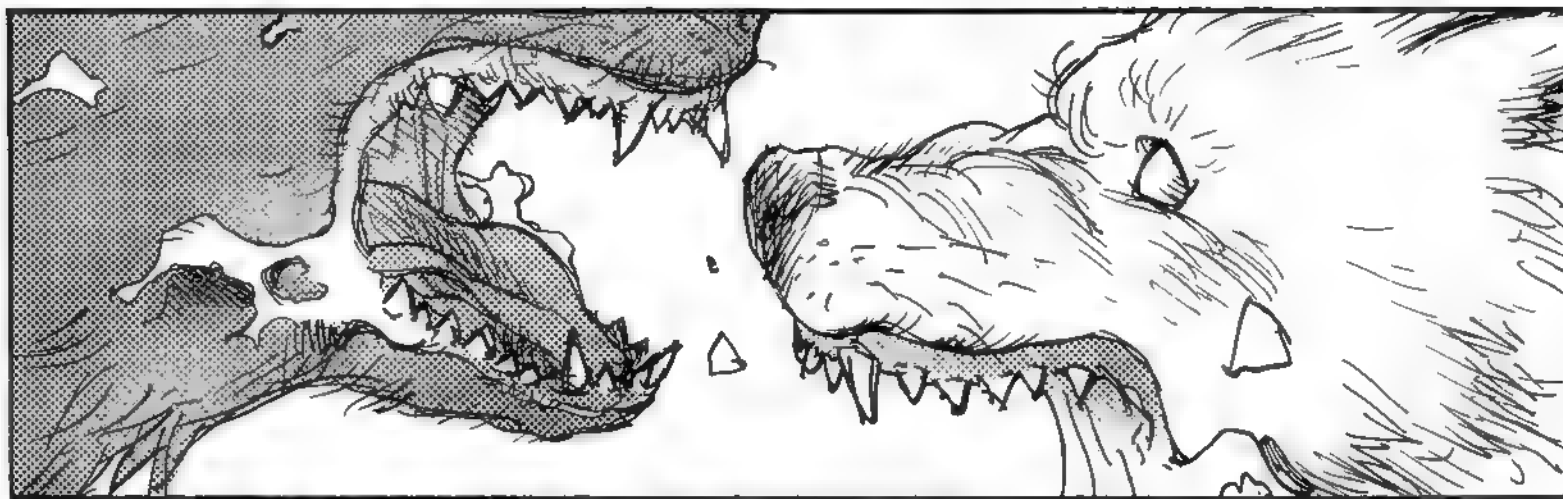
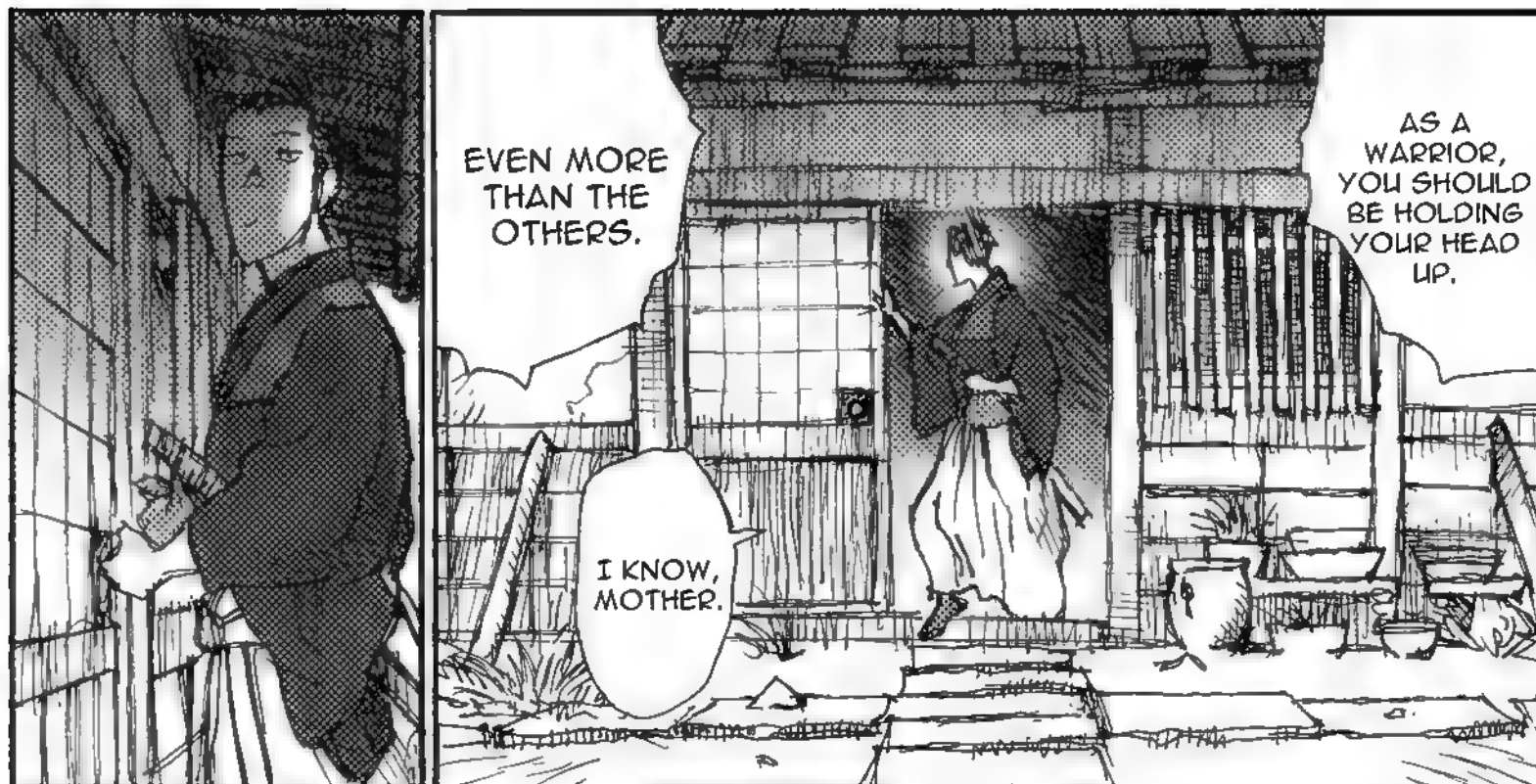
OH BOY.



IT'S SURE
HARD TO
HAVE...

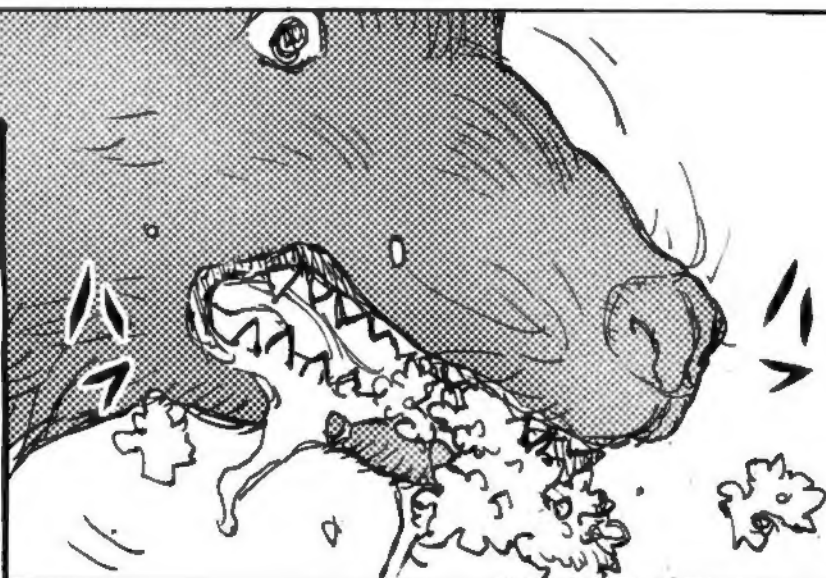
A HIGH
SELF-
ESTEEM.





IN ORDER TO
SUPPRESS THE UPROAR
AND HEISTS PERPETRATED
BY THE SATSUMA DOMAIN,
THE SHOGUNATE'S SECURITY
FORCES HAVE LAUNCHED
AN ATTACK ON THE
SHIBA RESIDENCE.

IN KEIOU 4,
THE BOSHIN WAR
HAS STARTED.



THIS WAS MERELY
THE BEGINNING AS THE
CONFRONTATION BETWEEN
THE SHOGUNATE AND THE
SATSUMA DOMAIN GOT
EVEN MORE INTENSE.

JAPAN WAS
MOVING INTO A
TERRIBLE ERA, WHERE
BLOOD IS WASHED
WITH BLOOD.

I'M FAM-
ISHED...





夜の合戦 血煙舞う 一撃必殺隊は!?

コミック乱
毎月 27 日 発売 !!
絶賛連載中!!

その敵が
どこの誰だか
不明だという点だ

し
問題なのは

オレたちだけで
練習するんだよ



いちげき 1

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